

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

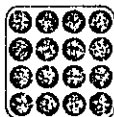
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Friday, April 18, 1975

10:00 o'clock a.m.

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Chairman

Wild Life and Fisheries  
Headquarters  
Off Perkins Road  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Helen R. Dietrich, inc.  
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333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130 • (504) 524-4787

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . A Special Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Friday, April 18, 1975, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Wild Life and Fisheries Headquarters Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Harvey Clay Luttrell, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

JERRY JONES, Member

JEAN LAPEYRE, Member

DONALD WILLE, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director

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CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: We are ready to start the program. I am sorry, there is a good possibility that I will not have a quorum today. Mr. Berry is out of town. He is in Texas, had to go there on business, unavoidable. Mr. Thompson is ill at home and will not be here. Mr. Wille, of course, is supposed to be in the air somewhere, but as I was coming down, we were having some thunderstorms and



bad weather up that way. Mr. Jones has to appear in court this morning and will perhaps be just a tiny bit late but he asked me to go ahead.

(Discussion of weather and flying conditions re Board members' arrival.)

THE CHAIRMAN: We can do this. We can start with those things that do not require approval of the Commission and maybe hope by that time that Mr. Wille will be here and in that case, with the Chair voting, that will give me a quorum.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, we have with us today Colonel Morrison, Director of the Civil Defense, who proudly presents this Commission with a \$150,000 check. This check is partial payment of the losses that we incurred during the '73 flood. A total of approximately \$400,000 was incurred by our Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. This is partial payment and Colonel Morrison is here in behalf of Governor Edwards to present the Commission with the \$150,000 check. Colonel Morrison, would you step forward, sir.

COLONEL F. L. MORRISON: Mr. Angelle, in presenting this I would like to say that every time



we have ever called on the Wild Life and Fisheries for help Colonel Hogan has always been right Johnny-on-the-spot and he has been very, very helpful to us in the flooding in the last three years that we have had, and we appreciate it. This is one check we enjoy giving out because we know that you people have always responded when we have asked for help.

The total is \$411,000 and this is just about completed. Mr. Dewey Wills of your agency is handling it. There is some little hangup on some fencing that they haven't been able to get back in because the place is flooded again. We have put in a request for final inspection with engineers and as soon as the water clears away where they can inspect these areas, we hope to be able to turn in the full amount of the claim. Of course, that takes a long process. That is why they have advanced. It always has to go through the state auditor and federal auditor and it hangs up quite a while, so if you all need an additional advance later on, we can probably arrange to get it for you.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Thank you very much, Colonel Morrison. In response for Colonel Hogan, he has always told me that he really appreciates your wonderful administrative ability in handling the affairs of Civil Defense and on behalf of the Commission we again offer you our assistance at any time.

COLONEL MORRISON: Well, we may be calling on your again.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Yes, sir. We are ready to go.

(Photographs of presentation were here taken.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Colonel Morrison, don't leave yet. I am Clay Luttrell, Chairman of the Commission, and I speak for the Commission and I will tell you for certain that we are very proud that you people are helping us with this and as Chairman of the Commission I want to say thank you for that and for any future help that we may get.

COLONEL MORRISON: Thank you very much, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, that is the only



business we have unless we want to take the discussion of the proposed legislation, which I am sure would be all right with Jerry and Wille. We could start on that because I would like to finish this meeting by twelve. I have another meeting in the Capitol.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, that \$150,000 presentation for the damages of the 1973 flood I hope is not prophetic because we are going to have some more damages in the 1975 flood. I think the majority of those damages come from the Spring Bayou of Avoyelles Parish and we are going to go right back through the same procedure again.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dupuy, yesterday when I met with the legislative committee, your representative asked me if I had any suggestion of how to get rid of that water and I told him I did. I said, "Do you want me to tell you?" and he said, "No, this thing is dynamite, so just please don't tell me."

I will tell you this. I called your man and congratulated him on his suit and offered any help. Of course, he won't get anywhere but he is



going to bring a lot of attention.

MR. DUPUY: Yes, he is.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you could prevail some way or through your legislators or someone else could prevail on the Corps of Engineers to close the Old River locks, the water in Spring Bayou and in the Spring Bayou Management Area would drop two foot within the first 36 hours, because Red River is seven feet below flood stage, and there is only one thing that keeps the backwater in there and that is the blocking of the flow of the Red, the Ouachita, the Black out the mouth of Red River into the Atchafalaya.

(Discussion off the record.)

THE CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask Mr. Angelle to start discussing the proposed legislation. He will start, of course, with those that are least controversial so that the members of the Commission that are not here can hear firsthand any proposed legislation that might be controversial, in which they might have some thoughts on.

I want to welcome the group and state that I am glad you are here. I hope that you under-



stand that this is a special call meeting, really for the purpose of handling legislation. The meeting will not be geared in such a way as to permit outside activities or outside input.

I think it is well known, especially by the news media and Mr. Stanek, and I am glad to see Mr. Stanek up here, and the members of the Board and the professional staff, my policy is to permit anyone to speak. I think they have a right to do this, but there are occasions when we cannot extend that thing. The fact is that I have carried my opinion of that to the extent that sometimes I think that my Board and especially the professional staff feel like the meetings don't have any real guidance, but the right of the taxpayer to express his opinion is a very dear right in the democratic society today and we do that.

Now, perhaps it might become necessary in the future that I exercise more control and more restraint on the meetings. Of course, if I do, I won't hesitate to do that one bit, but as it stands right now, I am apologizing if we happen to have someone here, and we just might have, who would



like to enter the discussion, I will welcome them to come back to the next meeting which will be the 28th and 29th of this month.

There is one thing that I can do. I happened to think about seeing Mr. Yancey there. Mr. Yancey, we I believe are supposed to get the federal regulations on ducks and duck seasons and so forth on the 24th of June, and we, of course, like to have a meeting after that so we can maybe set the season. I was asked at the last meeting to perhaps think about setting the 26th and 27th of June as the meeting date. However, I have a personal conflict on those two days. Just one week later, which would be a Monday and a Tuesday and which would fall into the framework of the Commission members better because they are accustomed to handling their business on Monday and Tuesday, would be June 30 and July 1.

Now, do you see any real conflict why we couldn't hold that meeting on June 30 and July 1, which would be the Monday and Tuesday following

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: June 30 and July 1?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, June 30 and July 1.



MR. YANCEY: Well, you would have your regulations on the doves. You wouldn't get it on the ducks until about the fifteenth of August.

THE CHAIRMAN: I see. The fifteenth of August.

MR. YANCEY: We ought to get to work and what have you on doves.

THE CHAIRMAN: I misunderstood. I thought it was ducks. I have a conflict on the 26th and 27th. I would have to be absent, I am almost certain, and I have never missed a meeting.

MR. YANCEY: Maybe you could set that meeting in June.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Let's have it June 30 and July 1. The first day of the next month. It would be a Monday and a Tuesday. Has someone a calendar? I have one right here. That would still be all right, Dick?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: You would probably need to set it at the meeting next week.

THE CHAIRMAN: I could do that.

MR. YANCEY: That would be the best time to consider it. We can call those people and



make sure they have it to us by June 30. I think they will.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. You see, June 30 is a Monday and July 1 is a Tuesday. Would you think about that and see? I can be absent but I don't want to be absent. I have never been absent and the chances are pretty good that I would have to be absent on the 26th or the 27th. So, unless there is a serious objection, at the next meeting I will set June 30 and July 1. I will say this. I have secured the park facilities for our pre-meeting this year and the high water will not affect us.

MR. YANCEY: You will have your May public hearing on hunting seasons in Alexandria and in late June you will set the season dates of the season with the bag limits on resident game plus doves, and gallinules and snipes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Good. I will hold this, Dick, and I will tell you now that I am sure it will be June 30 and July 1 unless something serious comes up, but I will make the announcement at the next meeting.



Now, Mr. Angelle, I am sorry for the delay and I hope you gentlemen that are here who might wish to have an input would excuse us at this time and I will invite you to come back to the regular meeting, which is two weeks from now. We will be glad to hear you all the way through. Thank you, Mr. Angelle.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Thank you. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, today we will be considering about ten or twelve pieces of legislation or providing it to you for your consideration. Two or three are most substantial pieces of legislation. Others deal with corrective pieces. We are hoping that we don't have as much legislation this year as we provided to the legislature last year.

Starting with the first one, which is on top of your package; it is not numbered, but it deals with the authority to set coon and possum hunting. It also provides for daylight and nighttime and setting of the seasons and bag limits by the Commission. It also provides for the unlawful taking of coon from boats and vehicles.



THE CHAIRMAN: Give us a little time to find that, please, sir. I haven't found it yet.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: If you would look right in the middle, 124. It should be right on top.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have you. That "124" means Section 124.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: The meat of the bill starts probably on about Line 27. I would ask Ted O'Neil, Chief of our Fur Division, and Greg Lipscomb, his assistant, to further comment on the provisions of this particular bill for consideration. Go ahead, Greg.

MR. GREG LIPSCOMB: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the present regulation concerning raccoon and possum hunting reads as follows:

"No person shall take or hunt deer or furbearing animals with head-lights or bullseyes. However, it shall be lawful for parties of two or more hunters with one or more dogs to hunt raccoons and opossums

at night with lights, to carry on such hunts with the purpose of taking raccoons or opossums. Not more than one standard .22 caliber rim fire rifle and to use single ball rim fire ammunition only."

The changes would include adding the following:

"The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission shall have the authority to set a daytime season for raccoon and opossum hunting. Bag limits for daytime and nighttime raccoon and opossum hunting shall be set by the Commission each year. A hunter may sell the skin or carcass of raccoons and opossums taken during the open trapping season provided that he is the holder of a valid trapper's license. It shall be unlawful to take, attempt to take or shine for



raccoon or opossum from a boat or vehicle. It shall be unlawful to conduct nighttime hunts for raccoon or opossum south of the Intracoastal Waterway."

MR. LAPEYRE: Greg, did you say that from Line 27 is where the bill changes the law?

MR. LIPSCOMB: Yes, sir, that is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, I am following you now. Go right ahead, Greg.

MR. LIPSCOMB: Do you have any questions concerning this piece of legislation?

THE CHAIRMAN: I have none.

MR. DUPUY: I do, I think. Your definition of bag limits for daytime and nighttime hunting, of course, is new. Do you have some recommendations now or will you have at the time of our hearing in May?

MR. LIPSCOMB: We will have recommendations at that time.

MR. DUPUY: There is no change in the use of the type of firearms?

MR. LIPSCOMB: No, sir, there is not.



MR. DUPUY: An automatic rifle is permitted. All you are talking about is single ball ammunition rather than scatter shot?

MR. LIPSCOMB: That is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take all of this up, Marc, at the time we set our season and bag limits. I think we will have some questions at the Alexandria meeting perhaps on this. I don't think we could set a season or bag limit now.

MR. DUPUY: No, I don't want to do that.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think after that meeting it would be proper. Go ahead, sir.

MR. LIPSCOMB: The next piece of legislation changes the law concerning fur dealers' records and payment of tax. We are adding --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: You skipped over to the other bill?

THE CHAIRMAN: We are not ready for that yet.

MR. LIPSCOMB: I don't know what order you have them in. Do you want the definitions?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Are you dealing with the bill that provides the definitions for trapping



and selling of your nongame quadrupeds?

MR. LIPSCOMB: I can take that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you finished with  
124?

MR. LIPSCOMB: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have finished with  
124. O. K.

MR. LIPSCOMB: The next one would deal  
with definitions.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Dealing with Section  
251.

THE CHAIRMAN: 251. O. K., give us just  
a minute. I am sorry. Go ahead.

MR. LIPSCOMB: The law at present provides  
for fur buyers, resident fur buyers are those who  
have for a period of two years previous to their  
application for a license been bona fide residents  
of the state. In this proposed legislation we will  
change that to one year residency requirements.  
The same will be true for fur dealers.

Skipping down --

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to ask a  
question. Give me the reason for changing that



to one year.

MR. TED O'NEIL: May I answer that?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, go ahead.

MR. O'NEIL: Over a period of years, Mr. Chairman, we have had a group of fur dealers in the state who have tended to keep it exclusive for buying furs in the state. I don't think that we should exclude anyone who can establish residence for one year from buying fur. I think we might get a better type. We might have a good fur man come in here that can buy that wouldn't want to stay in the state two years before he could buy. That is the thinking there.

THE CHAIRMAN: I agree with that completely, Ted, but I just wanted to have the reason for it, behind it. Thank you.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Ted, what is considered a bona fide resident of the state of Louisiana?

MR. O'NEIL: A man that has a residence and a driver's license and a post office address.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: For one year?

MR. O'NEIL: Yes.

MR. LIPSCOMB: Moving down to Line 21 on



the second page of that bill, here we are changing the definition of a trapper. The present law defines a trapper as one who takes or attempts to take nongame quadrupeds, except alligators, for the purpose of selling the skin or carcass. We are changing this definition to read, as follows: "One who takes or attempts to take any nongame quadrupeds except alligators and who sells the skin or carcass or one who sets or runs animal traps of any type to catch such animals, not including a landowner protecting his property with a permit from the Commission to do so."

Line 27 would be a new definition for the word "pelting" which is used in the present law several times. "Pelting" would be defined as "skinning and drying or skinning and freezing pelts of any nongame quadruped with the intent to sell such pelts."

MR. LAPEYRE: How does that vary from the existing definition?

MR. LIPSCOMB: We do not have a definition in the law for pelting, and it is used several times, so we are just adding it.



To the next page, starting with Line 2, the present law reads as follows:

"No person shall set any trap, snare, net or other device, designed to take or capable of taking any nongame quadruped, before the first day of the open season, or permit such to remain set after the closing day of the open season."

We are adding another line into that present law, requiring that all traps shall be run daily.

MR. DUPUY: Greg, I don't want to cause any real consternation but what would be the effect of this law with regard to attempting to trap or trapping coyotes for protection of property? In those seasons. We are talking about the fur seasons with regard to this, but the coyote is an outlaw. What do we do with that?

MR. LIPSCOMB: Well, we are not changing anything concerning the coyote. He is classified as an outlaw quadruped.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And we will continue



to have the authority to go ahead and trap them at any time during the year.

MR. LIPSCOMB: I believe we do.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, as I understand this from Line 2, a trapper would have to throw his traps, but he would not have to remove them until five days later, but by the end of five days he would have to have them removed from the grounds.

MR. LIPSCOMB: That is correct. The only change that is taking place with this proposed legislation, we are adding in the sentence, "All traps shall be run daily." Everything will stay the same.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Greg, I have one question dealing with, on Line 22, Page 2, where we make an exception to the alligator. In view of the fact that we may have a harvest season on the alligator this year or next year, do you think then this would have to be amended out?

MR. LIPSCOMB: We have a definition for alligator hunters in the law presently.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I see. O. K.

MR. LIPSCOMB: The last piece of



legislation deals with dealers' records.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K., that deals with Section 259, right in the middle of the page.

MR. LIPSCOMB: We are adding a clause into the present law, reading, "Dealer records shall be completed," starting on Line 20 of the first page, "Dealer records shall be completed and made available to the Commission for audit purposes within sixty days after the end of the trapping season." The reason for that, we have had problems in completing these records, and sometimes audits go on for several months after the end of the trapping season, and we feel like a statement in the law would help our audit people in completing these records.

MR. LAPEYRE: Presently there is no time limit for this?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: One year.

MR. ROGER HUNTER: All it says is that you have to pay the tax for the previous year before you can get a license for this year. There is no specified time when these records will be available. It just says they will be available.



MR. O'NEIL: Some of our dealers have made trips to Europe and that sort of thing and they stay out for two or three months. They don't come back and we can't get to their records.

MR. LAPEYRE: What is the nature of the records?

MR. O'NEIL: The number of pelts that they ship out of the state, for severance tax purposes, so we can keep up with how many pelts were caught in the state.

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct me if I am wrong, but as I read the law, I thought that they paid two cents on a muskrat, ten cents on something else, 25 cents on a different type pelt, but the number of pelts they had in the storeroom. Is that correct?

MR. O'NEIL: They can declare this. They pay it when we audit. As a general rule, they pay the tax then and they declare what they have paid on. We know what they have paid.

THE CHAIRMAN: Perhaps I misunderstood. I thought you said they pay the severance tax on those pelts that are sold out of the country, or



the state or somewhere. My impression was they paid this tax, depending on the type of pelt it was, according to the number they had in storage or the number they had bought or accumulated that year. Am I wrong?

MR. O'NEIL: I would think, yes, they usually pay so that they can ship at any time. When their books are audited, they will go ahead and pay up or they will declare that they will pay within ten days of when their books are audited, and they will clear that. They will keep tags. They have a green tag; that fur can't travel out of the state unless it has a green tag on it, so they keep their green tags back and ship when they are ready. Generally, they all pay up, you know, when they are audited.

THE CHAIRMAN: My question is simply this, Ted. Where the misunderstanding comes is simply this --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: At what point is the severance tax paid, is what his question is.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. A man that doesn't ship, if he claims he did not ship that pelt and



it was used right here in the state of Louisiana, he wouldn't pay a severance tax on it?

MR. O'NEIL: I think if you would take that to some court of law and he hadn't shipped the pelt; I think the tax is not due until after it crosses the state line. But they generally pay --

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to see that amended to where a man would pay his severance tax when he puts that pelt in his storeroom.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Bill, will you check that real quick? I think that's what the law is.

THE CHAIRMAN: I read the law that way. Now, I may be wrong.

MR. DUPUY: The purpose of the tax is for taking, for severance.

THE CHAIRMAN: I study these things pretty doggone close and, of course, I am not infallible and my memory is not all that good, but --

MR. HUNTER: Could I add something to that, Mr. Luttrell, that Ted didn't mention, that dealers are required to put up a deposit of so much money ahead of time to cover possible taxes



that they owe. They pay some in advance already. A resident dealer pays, what, \$500, and a non-resident pays \$1,000, and then the tax is not due and payable until he ships that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Until he ships the fur. That is my point of contention, that the tax should be for a man who buys the fur and he does what he pleases after that. He can keep it, he can sell it, it can rot, or do what he pleases, but he still owes us two cents for that rat and 25 cents for --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: At the time of purchase, at the time it is severed from the ground, when it is severed from the people. That's what the law is.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is that what the law is?

MR. HUNTER: Well, Section 257 provides for the severance tax.

THE CHAIRMAN: Read it to me.

MR. HUNTER: O. K. "There is levied a severance tax on all skins or hides taken from any wild furbearing animals or alligators within the state, payable to the state, through the Commission, by the trapper or alligator hunter shipping



his own catch out of the state or by the dealer, as follows."

Then it's got a Section B. "On muskrat, opossum, skunk, spotted skunk, beaver, ringtailed cat, bobcat, fox, coyote and raccoon, one cent."

MR. LIPSCOMB: Let me say one thing, Mr. Luttrell, which may clear something up. The reason that he pays a severance tax after, in other words, when he gets ready to ship, is for record-keeping purposes. That is when our people go in and audit.

THE CHAIRMAN: But if he doesn't ship, he doesn't have to pay.

MR. LIPSCOMB: Yes, he does. He does pay. He pays for everything, even though he may be shipping out later. He pays for everything that he is holding, at the time that he is audited.

MR. HUNTER: He does pay this deposit ahead of time to guarantee this tax.

THE CHAIRMAN: I just didn't want some fellow to be careless with his cold storage and have a bunch of furs rot and throw them out in the back of the woods and say, "I don't owe you a



penny, because I didn't ship them, I didn't sell them, I didn't do anything." But he does owe us because he bought those furs with the intention of shipping them, I think. Am I right?

MR. DUPUY: Greg, Line 25 of this proposed legislation says the payment is ten days following the annual audit or the dealer's records. This, of course, pertains to dealers. What happens to the average trapper who is not a dealer? At what point in time does he pay severance taxes, or do you --

THE CHAIRMAN: The trapper doesn't pay any, Marc.

MR. DUPUY: Well, whoever sells. You don't have to be a dealer in order to sell?

MR. O'NEIL: We don't require the trapper to have a dealer's license, but if he has a trapper's license, he can get a permit from us to ship out, and he gets a white tag, and when he packs that fur and takes it to the post office or to the common carrier, he sends us the tax on his furs. If he ships ten rats, it's ten cents.

MR. DUPUY: Ted, you are still talking



in terms of shipping. Suppose I just simply take a few pelts and I sell them to you and it stays intra-state, within this state of Louisiana. I have taken the pelts. At what point in time do I have to pay the tax?

MR. O'NEIL: If you leave your furs within the state, you don't owe any tax as a trapper. You can ship with a pink tag and that stays within the state.

MR. DUPUY: And I haven't paid any tax, severance tax?

MR. O'NEIL: The trapper doesn't owe any tax unless he ships out of state.

MR. LAPEYRE: The point is, the intent is to collect severance tax as a result of the act of taking the animal, not as the result of selling the animal in interstate commerce.

MR. LIPSCOMB: It is provided that the dealer shall pay the severance tax if the trapper sells to a dealer. That is the law. The trapper only pays severance tax if he ships his pelts out of state without going through a dealer. That is the only time he pays the severance tax.



THE CHAIRMAN: I see. I understand. Any other questions, Mr. Dupuy?

MR. DUPUY: I still think there are many pelts taken and severed from the land on which no severance tax is paid because the law doesn't provide for disposing of or collection of severance taxes where it isn't in commerce.

MR. LAPEYRE: Is it an actual fact that all pelts eventually are sold out-of-state?

MR. LIPSCOMB: Ninety-nine percent would leave the state by way of a dealer. Probably less than one percent would be handled any other way.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. That's good. Thank you. Go right ahead, sir. Do you have anything else?

(11:00 o'clock a.m. Mr. Wille arrived at the meeting.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Mr. Wille. We are very happy to see you.

MR. WILLE: I am very happy to be here, too.

THE CHAIRMAN: Come right in and sit on my right-hand side.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Greg, that completes your bills?

MR. LIPSCOMB: Yes, sir.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I think the next one in line, now that we have Mr. Wille here, we probably would deal with non-resident hunting license, and it deals with Section 104. You have that on top. Would you provide Mr. Wille with a package?

THE CHAIRMAN: 104, 104. Just hold a minute. I am behind time and I have gotten mine all messed up. I have got you.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Yancey, would you explain just the purpose of this and what we are trying to accomplish?

MR. YANCEY: O. K. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, this proposal pertains only to the non-resident hunting license fee schedule that we now operate under. Under the present law, we charge to residents of other states just what they charge to residents from Louisiana if they hunt in those states. Now, this basically sounds good because it would provide for an equitable system of handling non-resident hunting



license fee systems, but it has been a real nightmare to administer, in that we have 49 other states, all of which have different non-resident hunting license fee systems. This means that we have to determine what they charge our people and then we distribute to the sellers of our non-resident hunting licenses what those fees are in the other states. For example, we have to send these out to all the sheriffs' offices, 64 sheriffs' offices, and they in turn have to pass this information on along to the people that they distribute the non-resident hunting license fees to. Every time another states changes a non-resident hunting license fee, then we have to send out a correction on this to the sheriffs' offices and they in turn have to distribute this on to the sellers of the non-resident hunting license fees. It has created a nightmarish administrative and auditing problem, and we have received many, many, many complaints from residents of Louisiana, from other states and from the people who are selling our non-resident hunting license fees.

In order to correct this situation, we



would recommend that we go back and charge a flat rate standard non-resident hunting license fee to all residents from other states, so that the sellers of our non-resident hunting licenses will know what to charge people when they come in to hunt in Louisiana.

Now, this proposal would in no way affect the flexibility the Commission now has to adopt reciprocal agreements with other states to recognize hunting or fishing licenses. For example, we have an agreement with Texas on Toledo Bend. We have an agreement with Mississippi to recognize hunting licenses on state-line lakes up and down the Mississippi River.

We would propose that we recommend to the legislature that we develop a flat rate for non-residents hunting in Louisiana. Basically, in analyzing what the other states charge, we would recommend that we charge non-residents who want to hunt in Louisiana \$25 for an annual basic non-resident hunting license fee. There are 32 states that charge \$25 or less for this annual basic hunt-license fee. Mississippi and Arkansas charge \$25.



Texas charges \$37.50. We would also suggest that the trip license remain at \$10. Arkansas charges ten, Mississippi ten and there are 44 states that charge \$10 for the trip license.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, now how many days would a trip license require, five or three?

MR. YANCEY: Presently it allows five. We would suggest that we go to three for this.

THE CHAIRMAN: I know many of the states allow three.

MR. YANCEY: We would suggest that we go to three days for the trip license.

MR. WILLE: Dick, there is one thing, and I know you didn't overlook it because we were discussing it the other day. You might mention for the benefit of the rest of the Board that is here that the average is twenty-six. We are actually a dollar below the average. Am I right? Actually, we are being as fair as we can, is what I am trying to say.

MR. YANCEY: Right. We want to be fair and equitable in this thing and not make it prohibitive for a non-resident to enjoy hunting in



Louisiana, while at the same time we want to charge about what the average is that the other states charge.

MR. WILLE: The administrative cost is going to be monstrous on this thing if we continue to do it under a reciprocal type thing.

MR. YANCEY: That's right. This measure would cut out a tremendous amount of paper work and red tape, complaints and misunderstandings, and everybody would know what the license fee structure is for non-residents to hunt in Louisiana. Under the present system, our own people can't even determine what we should charge certain residents from other states.

THE CHAIRMAN: I know a state that charges \$75 and they allow you one white-tailed deer, and you charge the regular reciprocal agreement, even if it was \$75, you allow them six deer.

MR. YANCEY: The reciprocal agreement arrangement is one of those concepts that sounds good but in this particular instance it is not working.

MR. WILLE: The reciprocal will remain,



will it not, as a safeguard?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: The authority remains.

MR. YANCEY: The authority will remain. If you want to enter into a reciprocal agreement with a single other state, then you can do it.

MR. WILLE: In other words, we won't be bound if we make an agreement with Mississippi or one of our neighboring states, is what I am thinking about, which is good.

MR. YANCEY: We will continue to have this authority.

MR. DUPUY: You are speaking about \$25 plus \$20 for a non-resident taking deer on a trip more than three days in duration.

MR. YANCEY: The \$25 license would be the basic license for the hunting of small game. The big game license, we were thinking in terms of about a \$20 fee for hunting big game, the reason being that in Arkansas and many of the other states, you pay so much for each animal that you take, \$5 or \$10, and here again we can see administrative problems with that. We would rather just average out a flat rate on a big-game non-resident hunting



license of about \$20 so that everyone who sells our license will understand what they are supposed to collect.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, when you say "big game," this would include deer, turkey and bear --

MR. YANCEY: Deer, turkey and bear.

THE CHAIRMAN: -- deer, turkey and bear, because there perhaps will be a bear season.

MR. YANCEY: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dick.

MR. YANCEY: And, of course, we have under the present bag limits six deer, two turkeys. This is a very reasonable price for the big game license.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Do you want to go right into the other one, in Section 124, dealing with the turkey, prohibition on baiting and taking?

MR. YANCEY: Well, we would propose in connection with that, while we are on that subject, that we ask the legislature to put in the statutes prohibitions against the taking of turkey over bait or with electronic calls or with dogs. Presently we are handling this situation by means of Commission



regulations. However, there has been a Supreme Court decision that says that the Commission does have the authority to adopt such regulations, but apparently we know we can't assess penalties for these violations of these Commission regulations. Since these are not regulations that would change from year to year, we would recommend that we try to get the legislature to put these into the statutes. We would not see anything controversial with this, and certainly it would be desirable if these prohibitions be put in the statutes and then the courts would recognize and assess the proper penalties for violation of those types of regulations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, I have only one complaint, that this legislation is a little late. We ought to have had it before.

MR. YANCEY: Well, that's true, but better late than never.

THE CHAIRMAN: I just meant that to be facetious, but I am sure if it had become necessary, it would have been in there before now, but there was no reason, and I am in complete agreement



with it.

MR. YANCEY: Well, where you have to change annually with your Commission regulations, for example, on season dates or bag limits or something like this, this can certainly continue to be best handled by the Commission, but where you have a fixed prohibition like this that will probably continue indefinitely, then the courts recognize these situations better if they are in the statutes than they do if they are Commission regulations.

MR. WILLE: Dick, I am not trying to get away from what you were discussing there, but going back to that non-resident license, did I understand you to say it would be \$25 plus \$20?

MR. YANCEY: \$25 for the basic small game hunting license plus \$20 for the big game hunting license. It would be a total of \$45 if you were hunting deer or turkey. If you were hunting quail or squirrel or what-have-you, then you would pay only the \$25 license.

MR. WILLE: I thought, and maybe I am out of line saying this, but I thought that we had discussed, and I am sure you all did some discussing



after I left, but I thought the discussion was that we were going to charge \$25 plus whatever we charge our residents, which would be --

MR. YANCEY: Five dollars. We are charging our residents \$5 for the big game.

MR. WILLE: I thought we were going to charge the non-resident \$25 for just a non-resident license, and then a \$5 fee for --

MR. YANCEY: Prior to the enactment of this reciprocal license legislation we charged non-residents the same price for the big game license that we charged the residents, which was \$2, and the reason we did this was because we had a very complex big game license that had a bunch of tags on it and it \$35,000 or \$40,000 a year to print. Now, of course, we have a very simple big game license that costs only about \$4,000 a year to print, and we can easily print up another batch of these with a different price for non-residents.

It would have been complicated before but now it would not be. In view of the fact that the other states charge, you know, substantially more for big game hunting than they do for small



game hunting, this would simply put us in line with what the other states are doing. That was the reason for the proposal that we go up.

MR. WILLE: We might end up coming out of the legislature with a \$10 fee.

MR. YANCEY: Well, we might, but we need to get something in there, though, and certainly it is justified.

MR. WILLE: It might end up, maybe we will get \$15.

MR. YANCEY: We need to get the bill in and whatever changes they make in it, but basically what we are trying to get to is a standard flat rate non-resident hunting license that everybody can understand and live with. What these fees will finally be will be, of course, set by the legislature.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Thank you, Mr. Yancey.

Section 323, dealing with bait seines, length of. Kenneth, Harry, which one is going to take that? Harry will. Under 323, dealing with the area where bait seines are allowed. Do you want to skip that one for a minute?



MR. HARRY SCHAFFER: Enforcement put this one in. I am not familiar with it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is this your bill, Mike?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: No, I don't think it was an enforcement bill. That deals with --

MR. SCHAFFER: What the change is, Burt, they are removing salt water from seines measuring less than -- it used to be salt water seines measuring less than 100 feet in length, when used only south of a boundary, and they are leaving salt water out.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, hit me with that again. That is on Line 17, Line 18?

MR. SCHAFFER: Right, Line 18.

THE CHAIRMAN: ". . . seines measuring less than 100 feet in length when used only south of the boundary line as described in R. S. 56: 322A." Most people don't have R. S. 56 to see where that boundary line is. Is it in our regulations, our hunting regulations?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I believe what they are trying to resolve, Mr. Clay, is that under Schedule 16, salt water fish or shrimp seine, there



is a fee of \$10 for a fish seine 100 feet to 500 feet. What they are saying is that someone using a seine less than 100 feet would not pay any fee whatsoever. What they are trying to do is some corrective legislation here where a person would be allowed to take minnows and shrimp for purposes of bait with up to 30 feet of seine in length. Is that what I am following here?

MR. SCHAFER: I think what they are trying to do is letting them use a bait seine but still have the commercial fishermen buy their net license from zero feet on up to 100 which is not covered right now under the present law.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, this only covers people below a certain place. Now, those all north of there -- south of there, it covers those people; north of there, it doesn't affect those people.

MR. SCHAFER: They are already covered, right. They are covered in other legislation.

MR. HUNTER: Presently we allow anyone with a 30-foot bait seine anywhere in the state to take bait. Now, in salt water, we previously allowed a person to use a seine under 100 feet for



bait purposes in salt water, and in the last legislature we established this east-west boundary for the difference between salt water net and fresh water nets. So, the old one says salt water nets under 100 feet and we have been having a problem with this because it is hard to determine where it is salt and where it is fresh, so instead of saying salt water nets, it says that they can use a bait seine under 100 feet below this line. That is all it is saying. Just for clarification.

MR. SCHAFER: This black line running alone here.

MR. DUPUY: There is only one problem, the clarification for the average person who reads the law is not going to know where the line is and whether he is or is not violating the statute.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is my question and I asked would it be in our set of regulations, this set right here (indicating). Now, if it is spelled out in here, then the man has no excuse. If it is not spelled out in here, then we had better spell it out in the law.

MR. SCHAFER: We can see that it is in



the next year's section.

THE CHAIRMAN: You may amend this. It would be simple, wouldn't it?

MR. HUNTER: It is a long description, though.

MR. WILLE: Why a description, why not just draw it on the map that most people understand, anyway. Put a little map in there like you have got for your deer and turkey.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Robert, do you want to explain it a little bit further because I know we have some commercial fishermen here that deal with this and I am sure they would probably like to know a little bit more what they are getting into here.

MR. HUNTER: This particular thing is only to say where a person can use a bait seine and not pay a license. That is all it is for. We had a problem. The old law just said salt water bait seines. Now this says you can use this seine below this line but you cannot use this seine above the line for taking bait for your own personal use for fishing.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: But there is a provision in another law that allows them to take bait north of the line, is that correct?

MR. HUNTER: Thirty-foot seine, that is all it is.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: For clarification, the salt and fresh water is not an established line. There is nothing that says this is salty. It may be salty one day and fresh the next. But this line has been definitely established.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: This deals with size webbing and not with the salinity of the water.

MR. SMITH: That's right, and with the line where you can fish above the line.

MR. WILLE: All right, let me ask you this. Are there any commercial fishermen here who would want to speak on this?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, no, no. I have already announced that we will not have outside input today. Sorry. You were not here. Get your questions in, if you have any, and we will be very happy to have you at the next meeting. I have to finish this thing by twelve.



MR. WILLE: Sorry about that, Mr. Clay.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okey-doke. Go right ahead, sir.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K. Under Section 337, providing for a salt water gill net license fee. Go ahead, Harry, you explain that one.

MR. SCHAFER: In the present law the commercial gill net salt water license was omitted in typing up the act. Our present law does not have provisions for a license for the salt water gill net and this proposed act would provide for a license for a salt water gill net.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K., I think in further explaining this, under the present law, the commercial fisherman buys a commercial license but actually what he is buying is a seine and trammel net commercial license which applies to gill netting. What we are doing here, as I appreciate it, is to further clarify that they would not be buying any additional licenses. It is just that gill netting would be included in the license that they buy. Is that correct, Harry?

MR. SCHAFER: That is correct.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: How about if a bill goes through that prohibits gill netting in the state of Louisiana? What are we going to do with it?

MR. SCHAFER: Well, that would supersede the laws that are on the books and therefore there would be no license.

THE CHAIRMAN: A legislative act supersedes a Commission action.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Now, these are not Commission actions. These are all going to go to the legislature for their consideration?

MR. SCHAFER: You are absolutely correct.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And you are not changing the fee or the length of the webbing or anything else in the bill?

MR. SCHAFER: That is correct. It will be the same. What we are doing is just including gill net under the list of licenses that are already there.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K. Under the present law, is gill netting tagged? Do they get a little metal tag?



MR. SCHAFER: They get little metal tags now. Usually they will give them a seine tag or trammel net tag and they will put that on the gill net.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And we are providing for tagging also of the gill netting along with this new license in this bill?

MR. SCHAFER: Right, right.

THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, gill nets must be tagged.

MR. SCHAFER: All commercial gear must be tagged.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K., the next one deals with Section 322. Go ahead, Harry.

MR. SCHAFER: In the passage of 1974 in establishing this salt water-fresh water netting line, we inadvertently, by our mistake, left out Calcasieu Lake and Sabine Lake. Both of these are salt water, do have salt water populations in there, and should be established as being south of this line, so what this proposed legislation would do is move the line to include Calcasieu and to include Sabine Lake, the Louisiana side of Sabine



Lake.

MR. DUPUY: Does Section 322, subsection A, as you have it here proposed, does this contain the full and complete description of the line from one end to the other?

MR. SCHAFER: Yes, it does. What we are doing is accepting Calcasieu and Sabine. Lake Pontchartrain is already accepted under the present law.

THE CHAIRMAN: Harry, will you point that out to me by line? What line is it on? No, no, in here.

MR. SCHAFER: Page 2, Line 2, where it says "except".

THE CHAIRMAN: It starts with Line 2.

MR. DUPUY: Excuse me, but where you are speaking of, for instance, Louisiana Highway 82 and then Intracoastal Waterway, then Intracoastal Water and Bayou Barataria and so forth, is there somewhere in here that you refer to the center line of these particular water bottoms or the north side or the south side or the rights of way or what?



MR. SCHAFER: No, I don't think we do, Marc. I don't think it is that fine. We could go to the north and give them the benefit of the doubt.

MR. DUPUY: Well, it may be technical, but if you are on the north side or the north side of the center line of a water body, you may be violating it and maybe not be on the south side of the same water body.

MR. SCHAFER: No, we do not have it established in the bill.

MR. DUPUY: What you are actually doing is excluding those water bottoms that you name from the provisions of the act, and perhaps you shouldn't do that. For instance, you have got the Mississippi River as part of the boundary line. There may or may not be any fishing in the Mississippi River but it would be possible to be in violation of the description here, what you are trying to say, by being on one side of the river rather than on the other side of the river.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where it uses the Mississippi River, as I understand it, Marc, it includes



the entire Mississippi River, and if you were in the water of the Mississippi River, whether it was the north side or the south side, you would still be legal. Am I right there? Was that your intention?

MR. SCHAFER: I didn't follow you.

THE CHAIRMAN: I simply said this. Where you use the Mississippi River or any other stream, your intentions were that if they were in the water boundaries of that river, whether it was the north side or the south side, they are legal, just so they were in that stream, either side. Was that the intention?

MR. SCHAFER: I think the intentions in using either the highway or the Intracoastal Canal would be the north border or the north shore as it runs east and west there.

MR. DUPUY: We should say that then. You should be specific as to what side of each one of these water bodies you are dealing with.

MR. HUNTER: There is no real problem for enforcement, either enforcement or fishing, one way or the other. You can use both nets in



this particular water.

THE CHAIRMAN: If they are in the waterway.

MR. HUNTER: In the waterway proper. The way it is written now, I assume that both measures would be legal. If you want to use the north boundary or the south boundary or what.

MR. LAPEYRE: Why don't you use the north boundary? The north boundary would simplify enforcement, it seems to me. North shore, right.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., Harry.

MR. SCHAFER: O. K., then the last one is --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Which one are we talking about?

MR. SCHAFER: We don't have one on this one, Burt. This is the one that we need some guidance from the Commission on which way they want to go. As you know, we have had some difficulties, particularly in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes, with the gill net, and we have three alternatives that possibly you can consider and give us some guidance.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Harry, excuse me. Let's get to this maybe about ten minutes from now. We have got some other stuff we would like to get rid of and this is going to be the controversial part.

MR. SCHAFER: Sure, all right.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K., we are dealing now with Section 6, which deals with powers and duties of the Commission and further delegating that authority to sheriffs' offices in selling licenses.

A couple of years ago it was brought to my attention that the Commission or the sheriff did not have any authority to further delegate the issuance or the selling of licenses throughout the state of Louisiana. Through executive order I was able to allow this to continue, and the executive order also told us to apply some legislation. This is it today, which provides that the Commission, for the distribution of sport fishing and hunting and trapping licenses, authorizes and designates other people to be able to sell it for them, also delegates that authority to the sheriffs



throughout the state of Louisiana except Orleans Parish, to be able to allow the sale of licenses throughout the state of Louisiana as we are presently operating. What we are doing is legalizing something that was illegal to start with.

MR. DUPUY: Can you designate the sheriff's office as a special licensing agent?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That is correct.

MR. DUPUY: You are not necessarily designating the sheriff himself?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: The authority or the ex officio tax collector for each parish.

MR. WILLE: He can go to a sporting goods store, Marc.

MR. DUPUY: Yes, I know, but technically Lines 24 and 25, 25 gives you the opportunity of designating individuals, associations, corporations or partnerships, none of which includes an agency like the sheriff's office.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That is correct, but we have run into problems where some of the sheriffs are not too happy about handling these licenses, so at least it gives the Commission the



authority to further authorize others to sell our license and not at that time have to pay the 15 and 18 and 19 and 20 percent commission from the selling of the license.

MR. HUNTER: I think you would agree with that.

MR. DUPUY: I am simply raising the question of whether you have covered the man that you want to cover, by words in here.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: It was the intention that it be covered. Are you talking about on Page 31, that it be the office of the tax collector, ex officio tax collector, per se?

MR. DUPUY: I was referring to Line 24 but 31 I presume would cover the sheriff himself.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Line 24 gives us additional authority. O.K.?

MR. DUPUY: Of an individual.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it might be a sporting goods --

MR. LAPEYRE: Is it not necessary to say the office because the sheriff himself may delegate a person?



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Yes, that could be some corrective legislation. Make a note of that, Roger. Maybe the office of the ex officio tax collector.

MR. DUPUY: The ex officio tax collector or his designee.

MR. HUNTER: The sheriff has the right now to sell these licenses. He is our agent now. This is only giving him the authority, delegating the authority to the sheriff for him to select licensing agents around his area. He has already got this authority under other statutes to sell them himself. I think that is the question you have.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: No, I don't think that is the question.

MR. LAPEYRE: Gives his representative the right to do it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It gives him the right to select a representative. Is that correct?

MR. HUNTER: His representative would fall into one of these categories. He would be an individual, association, corporation or partnership.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: ". . . and shall be hereby authorized to delegate this authority to the ex officio tax collector or his designee for each parish."

MR. HUNTER: O. K., we can put that in.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: The other one deals with the recreation of the conservation fund. That is very non-controversial in this room. (Laughter)

I have discussed this with Wallace Henderson, who is here from the Legislative Council, and also an aide to Representative Morris Lottinger, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, and Mr. Bill Kelly, who is also here representing the Senate side of the Natural Resources Committee. They have been of much assistance to this Commission, to the staff, in getting this ready.

I would ask Wallace to explain exactly what he had in mind when he prepared this particular bill as it deals with the recreation, reenactment, reauthorizing of the conservation fund as it deals with the conflict with the new Constitution. I am sure there will be some questions, especially



from the Commission members, and maybe even from the press.

Wallace, would you be so kind as to provide this information.

MR. WALLACE HENDERSON: What this essentially does is recreate the Conservation Fund constitutionally within the Treasury of the state. It does it by provisions of Article 7, Section 9, which requires all money of a state agency or commission to be paid into the Treasury, credited to the bond security and redemption fund, and then, after all full faith and credit obligations of the state have been covered, the Treasury is authorized, except as otherwise provided by law, to pay all remaining money in the bond security fund into the state general fund.

What this does is provide an exception by law to paying money into the state general fund, being that money that the Commission has paid into the state Treasury, it will be set aside in a Conservation Fund within the Treasury, for the use of the Commission.

In Section 10 of Title 56 it picks up



again with all the reservations that the Commission has presently on the Conservation Fund, that no part of it shall ever go into the state general fund, that the surpluses will be continued, and what-have-you.

MR. LAPEYRE: Would this constitute a Constitutional amendment?

MR. HENDERSON: No, not at all.

MR. LAPEYRE: This is done under the Constitution, under some provision?

MR. HENDERSON: This is done according to the "except as otherwise provided by law" provision of that section of the Constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: This will be a legislative act then?

MR. HENDERSON: Right. This is an amendment to Section 10 of Title 56.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have a little something that I just happened to bring down that I wrote down while I was riding in the plane yesterday. I contend this, that the collection of funds from license fees are not really tax dollars because it doesn't apply to everyone.



MR. HENDERSON: It says "all money received by the state or any state agency or commission." It doesn't matter where you get it or what it is called.

THE CHAIRMAN: I know that, but under certain other agencies, especially some of our colleges, they are allowing them to keep monies that they raise from football games and so forth and so on. There was an exception made there and I believe that our funds have the same status.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, the colleges came came back in this first special session of '75 and amended themselves out. They declared themselves not to be --

THE CHAIRMAN: We need to amend it out.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, I don't think that is constitutional, I really don't, for them to come back and say they are not a state agency any more.

THE CHAIRMAN: I run into so many people who say "our tax dollars". Well, even severance money that comes from oil lands that have been acquired by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission



is not a tax dollar. It is severance money but it is not a tax dollar. It just is not a tax dollar as such. It is not levied on everybody in the state of Louisiana, and those tax dollars are dollars that are levied on everybody in the state of Louisiana.

MR. WILLE: Well, this exactly provides that our money be rededicated to the Conservation Fund.

MR. HENDERSON: It is not rededicated. It is paid into the Conservation Fund, the same amount that you paid into the Treasury prior to shifting all remaining funds to the general fund.

MR. WILLE: In other words, we are going to get all our money back.

MR. HENDERSON: Right. You go, you comply with the constitutional provisions, but before it goes to the general fund. That's correct.

MR. WILLE: What we really want to do now, under these conditions, if we push this bill through are we going to be protected until maybe a new governor gets in there or someone gets in there that doesn't give a damn about Wild Life and



Fisheries and proposes legislation and changes the bill and takes it back.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, of course, the legislature can always change a legislative act.

MR. WILLE: I may be looking too far down the road, I know, but I think after we get this act through the legislature we ought to look at a constitutional amendment.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That would be in conflict of the Constitution. There is a prohibition in the Constitution for dedication of these funds.

THE CHAIRMAN: I believe he is correct.

MR. WILLE: After we get this act through, Burt, looking down the road, you don't think we should try for a constitutional amendment?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I don't say that we should not try but I think it would probably be ruled that it would be unconstitutional to provide a constitutional amendment to amend the Constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is the reason for the new Constitution, to cut down all these amendments.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Don, I am sure, is aware that this Conservation Fund, as it was constituted prior to January 1, was by statutory authority and not by constitutional authority. In other words, what we are doing here today, or hope the legislature will go along with us, is reconstituting a statutory authority.

MR. WILLE: What we are doing is protecting ourselves until we get another governor that doesn't hunt or fish!

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Well, I don't know what other way you could do it.

MR. WILLE: Well, I am just thinking about looking down the road, Burt.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is good and I really appreciate what you fellows are trying to do there,

MR. WILLE: I want to see this thing go through a little more definitely.

THE CHAIRMAN: We ought to squeeze for enough funds to provide for these people.

MR. WILLE: But I think it is dedicated money. I still swear it is dedicated money and the hunters feel it is dedicated money.



THE CHAIRMAN: Let me explain one thing. Excuse me. My contentions on this tax dollar question were the fact that under certain acts, like the Rockefeller Fund and those, the new Constitution doesn't really touch us, and it just might be that since these are not truly tax dollars that we could slip them in the same way.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, your Rockefeller and Marsh Island money don't go under this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct, and these are not really truly tax dollars.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: But they are not talking about only tax dollars in the Constitution, either. All monies.

THE CHAIRMAN: All monies, I know. I was just looking for an out. You can't blame me for that. You don't blame anybody for trying; you blame him for succeeding! (Laughter)

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Wallace one question. I think it is on the minds of several people here in the room. Wallace, under the wording of this proposed bill and taking into consideration other existing statutes, we



know that each year we will be appropriated X number of dollars by the legislature to operate the department on. All right, let's say that we spend less than this amount, less than we are appropriated, what will happen to the unspent appropriated money at the end of that fiscal year?

MR. HENDERSON: Well, like I said, this bill plugs into Subsection B of Section 10. Now, the rest of Section 10 provides, Subsection B presently reads, "All funds collected by the Commission as herein provided shall be paid into the state Treasury to the credit of a Conservation Fund."

All right. Subsection C says, "The Commission shall keep a set of books," et cetera. Subsection D says, "Any surplus funds remaining to the credit of the fund on July 1 of each year, commencing with the fiscal year '73-74, after all appropriations of the preceding fiscal year have been paid, shall remain to the credit of the Conservation Fund for expenditure from year to year solely by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, in accordance with appropriation made by the legislature, and shall never revert to the state general



fund."

MR. YANCEY: O. K. So, any unspent appropriated Conservation Fund money then would go back to this Conservation Fund.

MR. HENDERSON: Would remain in the Conservation Fund.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Let me dwell on this just a little bit further, Wallace, and I think I know what you are going to answer me, but I just want, you know, to put it on the record. This year we are presently in, ending June 30, we will have some surpluses. I mean they are not going to be great surpluses but, you know, you will have \$100,000 here and \$75,000 there, because there are some of these projects we have been unable to put under contract. Do you feel that we are protected at this time, that these monies will remain in the Conservation Fund, if there is a Conservation Fund recreated?

MR. HENDERSON: I think so.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to ask a question. I picked this up yesterday and I may have been wrong, that perhaps the new Constitution will not



go into effect until possibly '76.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: No, it is in effect from January first.

MR. HENDERSON: It is in effect as of January 1, 1975.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: You are talking about consolidation, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, that's right; I am talking about consolidation of departments. Yes. Thank you.

MR. DUPUY: Wallace, one question, please, sir. It is entirely possible that all of the monies collected by the Commission may be diverted to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund if it is all necessary to pay the obligations secured by full faith and credit, so that there may not be any surplus over and above that.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, that's true, but --

MR. DUPUY: We are just trying to salvage what we can.

MR. HENDERSON: But we have discussed that and if that ever happens, you don't have to worry much about it because the state is going



down the drain, anyway, if all they have got to pay their full faith and credit is the money from Wild Life and Fisheries.

MR. DUPUY: You are accomplishing here the protection of what monies may still be available and not used for purposes of full faith and credit obligations?

MR. HENDERSON: Right. All we are doing is isolating the money that the Commission pays into the Treasury. You are just isolating it again, once you have complied with the Constitution, that is, credit to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, that is fine. All money is going to be credited to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, but all money left over after the full faith and credit obligations are paid under the Constitution goes to the General Fund except as otherwise provided by law, and this is an "except as otherwise provided by law". And that is strictly in accordance with the Constitution.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I don't hear any objections from this room?

IN UNISON: No, no.



MR. LAPEYRE: Just one question. What would be reccredited to the Conservation Fund would be a proportion of the amount that was forwarded to the Treasury?

MR. HENDERSON: No, the same amount that you pay into the Treasury will be credited to the Conservation Fund.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, that's about the way it is handled now, isn't it?

MR. HENDERSON: Yes, exactly, except that you can't do it under the Constitution.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K. The other major piece of legislation that we have for your consideration deals with tracing of the federal law that deals with motor boat registration. Mr. Hurley Campbell, Executive Assistant, has been working on this for about two years. We weren't successful last year in getting it adopted by the legislature. I think we have got problems again this year but we have to make a run for it.

Hurley, would you briefly inform the Board of some of the provisions at least, dealing with the mandate of the federal boating law that



deals with the Coast Guard and the possibility of the Coast Guard taking over the registering of our motorboat section, registering section.

MR. HURLEY CAMPBELL: I think I will just run down what we did last year, Burt. This is the same bill we put in last year on this matter. It complies fully with the federal act of '71. It is a copy of the Model State Boating Act, which more or less puts all the states in the Union in just about the same situation under law.

This year we have changed it just a little. The registration fees, when we last put it in, for Class A boats we had \$5; Class 1, \$10; Class 2, \$20; and Class 3, \$40. Even though there are less than 200 boats in Class 2 and 3 in the state, we dropped these figures this year to \$5 for Class A; Class 1, \$7.50; and Class 2 and 3, \$10.

We also dropped the renewals of Class A to \$3; Class 1 to \$5; Class 2 and 3 to \$7.50.

Now we are already in violation of the federal act of '71 because we had to have a bill by August 11 of last year to be in compliance. Very unofficially and behind the scenes, the Coast



Guard doesn't want it, doesn't want to enforce the laws in the state, and so they have just more or less hung back for a year, hoping that we can get it through this time. I know there has been a telegram from the new Commandant of the Coast Guard to the Governor, requesting that something be done on this.

I don't know what we are going to do. Some of the arguments last year were not brought up in committee but they were brought up on the floor where you can't refute them, can't talk back to these people. One man particularly was on the committee and didn't ask these questions in committee, so I don't know how we are going to come out on it.

I will be glad to try to answer any questions you may have about it. Marc?

MR. DUPUY: Lines 12 through 16 of Page 6 are the only changes, is that in essence what you are saying?

MR. CAMPBELL: Marc, the only changes in it at all from our previous act are in registration. We have added a decal to add to the numbers now for



enforcement purposes, a brightly colored decal that would be issued every two years and be put on each side of the boat. This will enable our enforcement people to just look at a boat and tell whether he is registered or not. Right now there is some 40 percent of the boats that don't re-register, and unless some agent actually stops one of these boats and looks at his card -- and it is patently impossible to stop 275,000 boats in the state; there is no way our enforcement people can do this in a year -- so right now 40 percent of the people aren't re-registering boats. When we run into it, we do something about it. With decals, we can just look. If it is blue this year, then we know if it is a green decal, this guy hasn't registered currently.

MR. DUPUY: What will be the cost of furnishing the decal? Will we furnish the decals to the registrants?

MR. CAMPBELL: We will furnish them originally, and if he doesn't put them on properly, damages them, knocks them off, there would be a small charge to replace them. I don't know what



the charge would be now. Last year it was relatively inexpensive for two-year decals and about five times as expensive for a three-year decal, but with inflation -- and I haven't checked back with the decal man this early before we go to the legislature to see how much inflation has run them up -- but if I remember right, Burt, wasn't it about \$15 or \$20 a thousand last year?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Right. I think we need to get that information.

MR. CAMPBELL: We can get it. I will call him back. He has been awful kind to us in furnishing this stuff and then we would bid on it, so we can just use generalities, because I would hate to jeopardize his potential bid.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I would like to add to this also that the legislature did not refuse adoption of this bill because of the fees that were involved. There were some overtones made about it and some amendment adopted, but these amendments were later removed and a higher fee was placed in. In other words, the legislature was not balking at the fees. They were balking at the



possibility -- not a possibility -- the provisions of this federal law as it deals with every motorized boat would need to have a starboard white light and a fire extinguisher and all the provisions of this federal bill, and they took the position that, by God, if the federal government wants our people to do this, that if they have a two and a half horsepower pirogue that they want to go do a little duck hunting in, they have got to carry a fire extinguisher and a bilge pump and a starboard white light and all this other stuff that goes with it, then they took the position, "Well, we are not going to put this on the people in the state of Louisiana. Let the Coast Guard do it. Let them do it." It became an emotional type of deal on the House floor and there was nobody there -- well, we were there; we were listening; that is all we could do, we couldn't say anything. So, it went by the wayside because of this.

If you have got any friends, if you have got anybody that you can talk to along those lines, they are not basically against this. They are just basically against the provisions of a federal law



that is mandated upon the people that they have absolutely nothing to do with.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is absolutely correct. I had three legislators say, "To heck with that. Let the Coast Guard see if they can enforce it."

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: The problem with the Coast Guard in enforcing this, the violation does not end up in a district attorney's, in his district court, in a local judge's court. It ends up in federal court and your fines meted out are a hell of a lot higher than those of a local nature. I think maybe the outdoor writers should get this whole information and put us a good plug because it has to be done. It is going to be done by the Coast Guard or it is going to be done by Wild Life and Fisheries.

MR. CAMPBELL: Could I explain how the Coast Guard handles their fines?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I think it is most important that you explain it and that people take note of it here.

MR. CAMPBELL: If they check your boat and you are in violation of some statute of this



federal boating act of '71, they issue you a citation and you later get a sheet of paper from the Coast Guard that says you have been found in violation of such-and-such a section of this boating law. You are hereby fined \$600, but if you want to settle before such-and-such a date, you can pay \$150 and settle it.

Otherwise, you have the option of going to court. Now if they have found you in violation of, say, life jackets, you obviously don't have them on there. You are in violation. You are getting a \$600 fine which you can settle for \$150. You are a darned fool for going to court because when you go to court and they find you guilty, you are going to pay the \$600. It is a question of you being guilty before being proven guilty, as far as they are concerned. They have the right to enforce it and they do it.

They got one man, I think he was at the Wildlife Federation, and they were talking \$1,680 in fines. He was automatically fined. If he goes to court, he has to pay that, or he can settle for \$300 or \$400 in lieu of that fine.



MR. WILLE: This certainly isn't going to encourage a lot of tourism in the state, fishing tourism and hunting tourism, if they know they are going to come down here and get whomped by the Coast Guard with a big old fat fine.

MR. CAMPBELL: With the exception of Washington state, we would be the only state with federal control.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Texas has already adopted those regulations, is that correct, Hurley? The state of Texas has already adopted those federal regulations, Arkansas, Mississippi. We are the only ones in the area that have not?

MR. CAMPBELL: And I have the comparative data on our fees. Of course, it is not the fees. The word "federal" is what beat us last time more than anything else. They just didn't want anything to do with anything labeled "federal".

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, you had something you wanted to say?

MR. YANCEY: Just one question.

MR. DUPUY: How is it different now than it was last year?



MR. CAMPBELL: The only thing we have changed now, Marc, from the last time we put the bill in is the fees.

MR. DUPUY: In other words, we are likely to run into the same thing.

MR. CAMPBELL: We can't change any of the others unless the Coast Guard changes them because it is the federal act we are trying to comply with.

MR. DUPUY: But Burt says the legislature was not balking at the fee schedule.

MR. CAMPBELL: No, they weren't. The word "federal" was the biggest balk.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick has a question and I have recognized him.

MR. YANCEY: One question for Hurley. The Coast Guard has said that if they take over the boat registration system in Louisiana, then they are going to contract this out and charge the boaters the cost of operating the system. Do you have any idea what the charge would be?

MR. CAMPBELL: It would probably be as much for one year as our fee is for two years, the \$5, I think. I mean, this is all unofficial



and off the record, but this is what they have indicated to me. At least \$5 a year and probably on a yearly basis.

MR. YANCEY: Burt has a wire from the Coast Guard, you said, that --

MR. CAMPBELL: Right.

MR. YANCEY: -- that says if the legislature does not act and they take over --

MR. CAMPBELL: That wire went to the Governor, didn't it?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That is correct, and they gave a deadline of May 1, 1975, which is probably for purposes of getting them going, moving.

MR. YANCEY: The boaters will pay considerably more under the Coast Guard system than they will under this proposal.

MR. CAMPBELL: Definitely.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I have discussed this with Captain Gornett and he feels definitely it would be much higher than what we propose, the administrative cost, and that they will be in committee, testifying to that effect. They don't



want it. They are not equipped to handle it and they would rather that Wild Life and Fisheries continue handling this directly.

MR. YANCEY: This is in the interest of the boaters to get this legislation passed. They will pay less to number their boats and they will be subjected to less penalties if they go to court but in the last session the boaters apparently did not get behind that bill. If they don't get behind this bill this time, the chances are it will suffer the same fate.

MR. CAMPBELL: Well, the Boat Dealers Association was there to testify at the House hearing on the thing.

MR. YANCEY: But there didn't appear to be any grass roots support from the boaters.

MR. CAMPBELL: No, that's right.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: In other words, what we are saying, we want these people to go out and get in touch with their local legislators, tell them what their problem is, and ask for some support. Isn't that what you are asking, Dick?

MR. YANCEY: They are going to have a



boat numbering system, but the question is, who is going to administer it --

MR. CAMPBELL: That's it in a nutshell.

MR. YANCEY: -- and whether they want the federal boys to do it under a much more costly system with heavier penalties.

MR. DAN GREEN: How about these states that have already complied, like Texas? Do they require licensing of pirogues and things like that?

THE CHAIRMAN: They simply follow the federal regulations, whatever they say.

MR. WILLE: Dan, we don't necessarily agree with the federal regulations, but you have to take the lesser of two evils in this case or otherwise we are all going to fall under federal control, as I understand it.

MR. CAMPBELL: This might be enlightening to Dan. On Toledo Bend Lake right now, Dan, if you cross, we have no regulation for an under-10 horse to be registered. If you are in a boat powered by 5-horse and you get on the Texas side, they are going to arrest you and it costs you \$27.50 under their law, which is the same as this



law we propose and the Model Boating Act, following the federal act of '71.

MR. WILLE: The problem is just going to begin if we keep following the Coast Guard regulations.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And besides, we have already lost this year a total of close to \$100,000 --

MR. CAMPBELL: Ninety-six.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: -- \$96,000 of federal matching funding dealing with motorboat registration. This money is used for enforcement of our game and fish laws, motorboat safety laws and you know, everything else in the operation of Wild Life and Fisheries, so it is another source of revenue that this Commission will lose.

MR. CAMPBELL: It isn't matching funds, either. That is a federal grant funds, straight funds.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, gentlemen, we will digress from this and take up the business on the agenda that has to have approval of the Commission.

The first item is to approve the minutes of January 28 and February 25. Do I have a motion?



MR. LAPEYRE: So move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre and seconded by Mr. Wille. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

All right, Kenneth Smith, we have No. 2, consideration of bids, Lacombe Fish Hatchery.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, on March 26 bids were opened on the Lacombe Hatchery for fish rearing and holding pens over there. There were three bids, one \$29,500; the next, \$29,470; the lowest, \$20,850. I would recommend the acceptance of this low bid to Campbell Engineering Company of Covington, Louisiana.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. WILLE: Motion.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille,



seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Any discussion? If none, those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, three bids were received on March 26, 1975 for construction of the rearing and holding pens at the Lacombe Fish Hatchery, and

WHEREAS, the lowest of the bids was submitted by Campbell Engineering Company of Covington, Louisiana, for \$20,850, and

WHEREAS, this is a Federal Aid Project, 50 percent state, 50 percent federal,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries



Commission approves the issuance of the contract to Campbell Engineering Company.

THE CHAIRMAN: No. 3.

MR. SMITH: No. 3 concerns bids to build some additional ponds at the Beechwood Fish Hatchery near Woodworth. There were four bids that came in on that project and the low bid was \$182,362. We had asked the contractor or the architect to prepare alternates, in the event we had the money to build these additional features.

The first alternate was \$28,214 for two additional one-acre ponds. The second alternate was \$14,000 for one additional pond. We had \$200,000 available for this project. \$20,000 was used for special surveys, soil borings and so forth and architect fees. What we actually need to accomplish the base bid, which would be eleven ponds, and the first alternate would be two more ponds, or thirteen one-acre ponds, we would need an additional \$30,000.

We have been assured by the federal aid people, and this is a federal aid project, that three-fourths of this amount is available and



approvable in federal aid. We need approximately \$7,500 state funds. I have talked to Larry Cook. We have this in major repairs and we would like to recommend that the base bid of \$182,362, plus the first alternate, \$28,214, be accepted at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is the pleasure of the Commission?

MR. WILLE: So move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. LaPeyre. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, four bids were received on April 9, 1975, for pond construction at the Beechwood Fish Hatchery, and

WHEREAS, the lowest base bid



was \$182,362, submitted by Alexandria Construction Company of Alexandria, Louisiana, with the first alternate bid in the amount of \$28,214, and the second alternate for \$14,000, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined federal matching funds are available for the base bid and first alternate, and

WHEREAS, funds for the state share, 75 percent federal, 25 percent state, are available for the base bid and first alternate, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission approves the issuance of the contract to the Alexandria Construction Company for the base bid and first alternate, a total of \$210,576.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is moving along quickly. Now we are ready.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Roger, didn't you say



you had four other pieces of legislation that you had not completely prepared that we should have?

MR. HUNTER: It was recommended and we had discussed the other day but they have not been prepared yet.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K. Would you capsule that real quick for the benefit of the Commission members?

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't want to put any restrictions on anyone and I would like to hear every bit of this and I do have some time, and if we will restrict our comments to those things that are really vital, I will get a chance to hear all of it. Thank you.

MR. HUNTER: O. K. The first item was from Mr. Jimmie Gillespie, recommending that we make it illegal to hunt or take game quadrupeds or game birds from a vehicle or aircraft. Now, presently we are incorporating this in our rules and regulations that we adopt but it is not in the statutes and they are having problems getting convictions on these cases because it is not in the statutes. He makes this recommendation and we had



discussed this the other day and everybody was in agreement with it.

MR. LAPEYRE: Does this generally come under the same category, I think it was described as something, a rule that essentially doesn't change, and we should attempt to give it full force and effect?

MR. HUNTER: Right. This is the same thing as the turkey baiting problem we have.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, you said "automobiles, aircraft or boats"?

MR. HUNTER: His wording is this: "To hunt or take game quadrupeds or game birds from a vehicle or aircraft." That is the way he has worded it.

THE CHAIRMAN: What about boats?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: We already have it.

THE CHAIRMAN: On boats? O. K. Thank you. Much in agreement. Just want to be sure.

MR. DUPUY: Boat, not airboat?

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it is a boat. An airboat is a boat, and I remember you are correct, you can only shoot out of those if they are dead



still and the motor dead.

MR. HUNTER: It is a vehicle. It does not say "motor vehicle," it just says "vehicle" here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right, vehicle or aircraft.

MR. HUNTER: Another problem that Mr. Gillespie brought up was the fact that we don't have a good law apparently on possession of game quadrupeds, particularly deer. It is against the law to take them out of season, but if they don't catch a man in the act, get him in the act of taking it, they have difficulty making cases on possession. He recommends including this in the wording of the present law.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's good, too.

MR. LAPEYRE: How far are we going with this?

MR. HUNTER: I don't really know. We haven't really gotten into it.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a regulation where we can give permission to people, you know.

MR. HUNTER: This would be illegal possession.



THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, that's right, but possession without a definite permit from the Director is illegal. That is good, too.

MR. WILLE: Jimmie, can I ask you a technicality on this? It could happen. Say a man was on the road and he finds a deer carcass and throws it in his trunk and he is heading to turn it in, take it where it won't stink or something like that, as a dead carcass. Is he illegal by picking that deer up and trying to take it to somebody to get rid of it?

MR. GILLESPIE: He would be. He would be.

MR. WILLE: He would be?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, he would be. This happened to me. A deer killed itself in my front yard. I simply called a game agent to come get the thing and they did.

MR. WILLE: Well, it should be explained a little better in the regulations. You know, you find so many animals on the road that really the buzzards end up getting and they end up stinking up the whole area. Is there any way we can get around it, Jim, without giving him a license?



MR. GILLESPIE: They won't charge him. They have to use a little common sense. If a man picks up a deer that has been run over, you might tell him he is in violation but you don't go ahead and charge him. We have got no problem there.

MR. HUNTER: The third item, I believe Kenneth Smith may already have discussed this to some extent. He is recommending legislation to prohibit the movement of obnoxious vegetation, such as hydrilla, into the state. He is supposed to be working up wordage for this now and this would be new legislation.

MR. WILLE: You are talking about that Florida moss, aren't you, that comes in these fish boats?

MR. LAPEYRE: When you speak of removal, are you speaking of bringing in?

MR. HUNTER: The movement of, in other words, into the state. The movement into the state, not removal. I am sorry. It should be "movement of".

MR. SMITH: The importation into the state also, of these two particularly.



MR. WILLE: Then they empty them into the lake when they get tired of this.

MR. HUNTER: Kenneth is supposed to be working up some words for this now with some of his people, and this is something we are going to have to get drawn up.

At our meeting we also discussed the possibility of having a special type commercial gear fishing license for commercial fishermen, where they could buy one license that would cover all types of gear. Now this was only in the discussion stage. It was just the possibility of recommending such and see how the commercial fishermen feel about it. The reasoning behind it would be to keep the Sunday fisherman from buying a little five-dollar license and selling his catch anywhere he pleases. This would make the commercial fisherman a true commercial fisherman. This is the purpose of it. We don't know what their feeling is on it. This was just a suggestion. They would buy one license covering all gear. It would be a pretty good fee but it wouldn't be terribly much more than they are paying now for



their individual net licenses.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: We would expect a recommendation on the fee from the commercial fishermen's interests.

MR. HUNTER: Right.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: What we are trying to do is have one commercial license, and that man can crawfish, fish specked trout, anything he wants to. He is a commercial fisherman. Then we would get some input from the commercial interests how much this fee should be.

You know, at that meeting we had some sport fishermen who came up and said, "Instead of buying a \$2 license, I can buy a \$5 license, and I can go catch ten boxes of speckled trout and go sell them and I am a sport fisherman," and this is in the record. He volunteered this information.

THE CHAIRMAN: I wish Jerry were here because on the opening day of the shrimp season in Calcasieu Lake, you almost have to rent a place just to put your boat. People with 16-foot trawls out there on a Sunday afternoon. They are raising Sam now because I believe you charge them a \$25



license. Texas people come over and fish in there for a \$25 license, not commercial fishermen, but if he moves over to Texas, he pays \$50. I believe that is correct.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And we are referring only to finfish licenses and not shrimp fishing?

MR. HUNTER: This wouldn't be trawling. This wouldn't be for shrimping at all.

MR. WILLE: Fresh water?

MR. HUNTER: This would be fresh and salt water.

THE CHAIRMAN: I knew you were going to run into something, because I have been down on Calcasieu Lake when honestly, by daylight, you had to rent a space to put your boat. O. K. Thank you.

MR. HUNTER: One more item that came up was the possibility of charging a trucker or a person buying fish or seafood from other than licensed, resident Louisiana wholesale seafood dealers a wholesale seafood trucker's license, and also requiring this man to be responsible for severance taxes if he is dealing in oysters or shrimp.



Now, we have had this problem now where these truckers come in from other states, load up from the dock, the boat, and take off with these fish or shrimp or oysters, and we never get the severance tax and we don't get any dealer license or anything from this man. We do have this problem.

MR. LAPEYRE: That's because we don't have the law covering that.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: No law. Just to give you an example, I can be a commercial shrimper and come in from Galveston or anywhere with 10,000 pounds of shrimp and then sell it to you. You may be from Mississippi. You come in with your refrigerated trailer truck, and I can sell it direct to you without going through a Louisiana dealer of any kind. You leave with it. You carry them to Mississippi. There is no severance tax paid on it at all. This is some loophole here that we have come across. It is important to enforcement people. Louisiana resident licensed buyers keep calling us. "This man is from Mississippi, this man is from Texas, and this is what he is doing," and there is nothing we can do about it, no provision.



(12:05 p.m. Mr. Jones arrived.)

MR. LAPEYRE: Under the present law, selling these shrimp, that does not apply?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: If he is from out of state, no.

MR. HUNTER: The law says the first dealer pays the tax. What is your feeling on this?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think this is good. What is your feeling?

MR. LAPEYRE: But why doesn't the out-of-state trucker come under the provision of first dealer?

MR. HUNTER: Well, he can't; under our definition of a dealer, he has to be a bona fide resident of the state to be a dealer.

THE CHAIRMAN: And he has to sell in the state.

MR. HUNTER: He is not a bona fide resident of the state so we don't have a license for him.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. Do you have another one?

MR. HUNTER: No, sir. That is all I had



that we had discussed.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: We have to provide some means of correcting this and we don't really know what we need to do particularly but we are going to try, and when you hear about it, you will know that you have heard about it before.

THE CHAIRMAN: And we have agreed that it is good and that it should be corrected. Burt, do you have another one?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Well, there are two other groups of people here that we don't want involved but I don't know how we are going to do it not to get them involved. It deals with the gill netting laws that are being proposed with the Gill Net Committee of the legislature. It deals with proposed legislation by a group of sportsmen throughout the state. It deals with legislation that some individual legislators are going to introduce to prohibit gill netting on the whole coast of Louisiana. It deals with all kinds of netting, webbing size, cane slat traps. You name it, it's in there and I think we need to discuss this.



THE CHAIRMAN: Burt, let me ask you this. Do you have the legislation? Are we going to discuss the legislation? Because that is all, as Chairman of the group, that I am going to permit today. We want these people back and we want them to discuss all of this and I will invite them to come at the next meeting.

Now, if I had known, I would have made different arrangements. If I had known you were coming, I could have made arrangements and could have been here, but I didn't know you were coming. But if this is legislation and you have some of it, I want to discuss it.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: It's not controversial. Non-controversial. (Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Non-controversial, but do you have the legislation is what I am talking about.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: We have the recommendations. In fact, it is so hot you can't even put it on paper. It would burn it up. But there is another group also that are here. In talking to them about a week or ten days ago, I believe



they went out yesterday and ran a few try nets dealing with shrimp size as it deals with the opening of the shrimp season on April 30 and they are here to tell us what they found out there along with our agent and our people, so I told them they could come.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have that with the brown shrimp meeting next Friday and that will come up before Dr. St. Amant and that is the proper time to bring that before the Commission, at the brown shrimp meeting next Friday.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: They asked me if they could attend this meeting. I told them it was a public meeting, they could attend the meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And if it is your desire that they not be involved, you so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's right. I believe the Chair has the right to decide the agenda at a meeting of this sort. Now, if I am in error, some of you folks tell me. But if we go to allowing these small groups to come before us, gentlemen, and skip the brown shrimp meeting, then, of course,



we are going to have these groups coming early each time. Unless I am overruled by the Commission, I don't care to hear these people today. Now, if I had been briefed on it, maybe there is a good reason for it, but really I don't.

Now, if we have more discussion on legislation, I want that.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: They didn't want to be on the agenda, They just said, "Whenever you are through with your business, I would like to visit with you all for a little while," and they are out here in the hall.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like for them to visit with us next Friday at the brown shrimp meeting. We are not geared for this.

MR. WILLE: Mr. Chairman, this particular thing -- and I am going to go on record right now as disagreeing with you -- I think we have got a public meeting here. A while ago I asked if anybody had any particular law. When we get to the point we have a public meeting and we can't hear the public and these laws pertain to the public -- and I know this pertains to shrimping; it doesn't



pertain to what I was talking about a while ago -- but I am going to say this, that we have a quorum here now and I know that you have got a tight schedule. If you would like to leave and it is in agreement with the rest of the Commission, we will be glad to sit here, I will, personally, be glad to sit here and hear anything that the shrimpers have got to say if it takes them all night long. Now, that is my feeling, personally.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that. My ruling is still the same. A while ago, Wille, let me tell you this. If the meeting is going to be run according to Hoyle and properly, all discussion has to come through the Chair. If someone wants to be recognized, wants to say something, he has to come through the Chair. Of course, Mr. Wille is a Board member and we respect him, he is a dear friend of mine, but he cannot recognize the speaker. The Chair does that.

MR. WILLE: All right, then, Mr. Clay, let me do this. I would like to make a motion to the Commission right now that we hear these shrimpers. We still have a quorum if you have to



leave, is what I am trying to say. So, I would like to make a motion to see how many of the rest of the Board members would like to be here. If there is a quorum, fine, we will hear them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Of course, we have a motion, and I recognize you for the motion, we have a motion before the group.

MR. LAPEYRE: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a moment, sir. I am having a problem with my people. We have a motion before the group, rescinding the --

MR. DUPUY: Overruling.

THE CHAIRMAN: -- overruling the Chair in permitting a group of people to speak today on something that we are going to take up next Friday.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Provide information.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, I have had a motion and a second. Do I have any discussion?

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, first I apologize for being late. I was in a pre-trial conference in court in Lake Charles and I got held up and I am sorry.

I don't know what the problem is about



not being able to hear them, but I will gladly sit here all afternoon and listen to them. You know, these people, shrimpers, have a real problem and, by George, if they have got some information, I can't see any reason why we shouldn't listen to them or listen to anybody else, as far as I am concerned.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, I want to discuss it a little bit. The Chair is not supposed to discuss any motion. I know that, but I don't have a vice-chairman here, to step down so that I can discuss it, but my simple reason was this. I should be informed beforehand when these people are coming in or someone is coming in so I can make arrangements for my schedule as Chairman of the Commission. I believe you understand that. Now I will be glad to stay here and, if the Commission overrules me, will not sustain the Chair, then, of course, I will stay here and listen, but we have we have heard all legislation, Mr. Angelle?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: We still have legislation after this?



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Yes.

MR. WILLE: We have some legislation, Mr. Chairman, and I also need to ask for another change in the agenda that you don't know about but it needs to be done.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, could we have the rest of discussion on legislation before this discussion on shrimp?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Well, I think properly we could dispose of the motion and the second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I know, but I am still in discussion. I want to call for the roll.

MR. JONES: Mr. Clay, may I make a suggestion? We have got some people that apparently have been here for some time and they want to get on their way. Couldn't we just go ahead and hear them and then we can get back to the legislation. You know, they have got to work for a living, and we could let them go.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., if there is no other discussion, those in favor of the motion, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.



THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no. Of course, the Chair can't vote.

(No response)

It is carried. Now, then, who do we have that wants to speak?

MR. WILLE: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I recognize Mr. Wille.

MR. WILLE: Just before we get into this discussion, there is just one thing that I wanted to bring up that we are about to lose some money on that is appropriated. I know it is not on the agenda. I just discussed it with Kenneth Smith. Kenneth, are you here yet?

MR. SMITH: Here.

MR. WILLE: Kenneth can fill you in on it. We have a piece of property at Bistineau we discussed at the last meeting informally that I think we have got most of the arrangements made on, and I want to see if we can get the Commission to empower the Director to go ahead as soon as this thing is finalized to approve it in the name of the Commission so that we can get on with it and get this construction started before we lose



the money, on that fish research station up there.

Kenneth, would you mind filling in on it, if it is all right with you, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct. I know about it and I am glad you brought that up because that is important. That was hanging over from last time and it comes under "Other Business" and therefore it is on the agenda.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, this is two and a half acres of land on the north shore of Lake Bistineau, which has been offered for sale to the Commission for the construction of a fish research laboratory.

We had some problems with the description, which was the primary reason we hadn't gotten it on the agenda today, but I think we have gotten these resolved. We also had a little problem on the offer to sell, which involved a specific amount of \$22,500. The appraisal that was obtained by the appraiser obtained by the Division of Administration was \$250 less than that recently offered by Mrs. Seward, who is the owner. We have contacted Mrs. Seward by phone and she has agreed to sell at



the lower price. We don't have the signed offer to sell in our hands but she has agreed that she will come down that \$250.

In addition, the land description which the appraiser obtained was the same as that in the courthouse but he said he could not run it down, he couldn't make sense out of it. What we did was call Mrs. Seward and say we had a problem. She contacted an engineer from Caddo Parish who worked with the local road system and so forth. He worked this out and says he has no problem with it, that there was something we didn't understand on the thing.

This has also been checked by some of the people in our drafting section back in the back, who brought me a sketch, and the lines did close as they should, so it appears that has been resolved.

Now this is the present status of the land. We do have an offer to sell. It has to be amended. The attorney says that we have got to have her initial this change before we can go through it. The land description seems to be O. K. at this time.



MR. WILLE: Mr. Chairman, a motion would be in order that we empower the Director to act on the part of the Commission on the sale of this property.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion before the house to authorize the Director to complete the purchase of this property.

MR. DUPUY: I second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Marc seconded it. Is there any more discussion? Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So carried, so ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, an offer has been  
made to sell to the Louisiana Wild Life  
and Fisheries Commission two and one-half  
acres of land on the north shore of  
Lake Bistineau by Cora H. Seward for  
the total sum of \$22,250, and



WHEREAS, this figure is in agreement with an official appraisal by Mr. Russell J. Doiron, and

WHEREAS, this land is suitable in size and location for the construction of a fisheries research laboratory,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission grants approval for the Director to enter into an agreement to purchase the two and one-half acres.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Angelle, I am much interested in your legislation so we might just start in the manner, since you know about this and I don't, in which you think best, in the order which you think is best. Who is it knows about this?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE.: I think if we take it in the order of the least controversial, we could maybe allow these people to go on home. I think the people with the shrimp association won't be too long, taking maybe five or ten minutes to present this.



MR. NORMAN NAQUIN: Just one speaker.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: One speaker? O. K.

THE CHAIRMAN: And it won't take too long?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: We have, Mr. Clay, Mr. Norman Naquin who is president of the Terrebonne Parish Commercial Fishermen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naquin, I want you to understand that I am not trying to discriminate against you. I am trying really to hold the meeting in the proper manner it should be, and I hope you will be before the shrimpers' meeting next Friday.

MR. NAQUIN: Right, we will be.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have never missed one of your meetings and I won't miss this one. I will be there.

MR. NAQUIN: We will be there on the 25th. The reason I came up here today was mostly for gill nets but then you all carried that and the speaker for the gill nets didn't come. What happened, I don't know. That would have been Randolph.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: He called me this morning.



MR. NAQUIN: We took a vote last night. Well, I will start in the beginning. We tested fifteen days ago and there was some brown and some white. We tested yesterday and there was less brown and less white. So the fishermen, we had our meeting last night, and they voted on and they still want to go May 1, no matter what, because of the reason that we would shorten the season and not get into our white shrimp season. That is all the purpose for that. That is all I have to say about it. We will talk more about everything on the 25th.

THE CHAIRMAN: Fine. Let me tell you something else, Mr. Naquin. This man here is my champion and I believe what he says; you convince him and you will have my vote, that's for certain.

MR. JONES: May I ask him a question, please? What was the size of the shrimp that you caught?

MR. NAQUIN: I would say they averaged on brown, I would say between 70-80. The white would have probably went 36-40, but there were very few yesterday. They have already migrated off.



MR. JONES: Where did you take the samples?

MR. NAQUIN: We took the samples Lake Barre, Terrebonne Bay and Pelto.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Was that in conjunction with our biologists and our game agents working on the same boat?

MR. NAQUIN: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your whites were large shrimp but very few.

MR. NAQUIN: Very few. Not enough to do anything, really.

MR. LAPEYRE: What was the difference between the catch between the two parishes?

MR. NAQUIN: I would say 80 percent. They have already moved, they have migrated out, but the reason they want this is to try to cut it short and not get into our white shrimp crop in August. I suggested to them maybe instead of sixty days, take forty days.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And you are talking only about Terrebonne Parish?

MR. NAQUIN: Terrebonne Parish, that's it. No one else. I see a man here from St. Bernard



Parish. He might have something to say.

ST. BERNARD REPRESENTATIVE: We will definitely go for the latest date possible!

(Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir, and thank you for being brief. We appreciate that an awful lot.

MR. NAQUIN: We will see you all on the 25th.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K. You mentioned a while ago that you were here for both gill netting and shrimp. We will be discussing gill netting here shortly, if you want to stay. You don't have to leave.

MR. NAQUIN: I don't know too much about the gill net laws but I will try.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Coming back to our gill net problems, some of the problems, it would probably be in order to ask Kenneth Smith and Harry Schafer, Chief Hogan and Doc -- Doc, don't run away. We will be discussing this and giving you the benefit of the staff's recommendations or any they have. They may be, you know, trying to throw that ball



back at you, I don't know. We have got problems we need to resolve. We may need research. I don't know. I think they are here to make a presentation for the benefit of the Commission, so you all can start it off.

MR. SCHAFER: Let me preface this, first of all, by saying that in the Chandeleur Islands, the Chandeleur Sound, down at the last islands, and in Calcasieu Lake, that the Commission biologists have now begun studies. We haven't started on Calcasieu Lake as yet. Kenneth Smith --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: You have started in Area Four?

MR. SCHAFER: We have studied Area Four and then the last islands down here, Isles Dernieres, over here.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Near Houma.

MR. SCHAFER: Yes, right down in there. These have started. They will not be funded until July 1. These are federal aid projects. They will not be funded until July 1. The biologists and their crews are out there, picking stations and trying to ascertain what is the best type of gear,



getting all geared up to start on July 1.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Developing the program.

MR. SCHAFER: Developing the program is going on now. O. K., with that we will have some information in two to three years, local information. Everything has been based on part studies along the coast and in other areas of the Gulf and on the East Coast on some of the recommendations.

As you know, we have been having difficulty in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes with that law over there that completely closes the whole area for gill nets. It allows seines and trammel nets during the period from July 16 through April 14. This has caused a problem in that some of the fishermen over there are using the old gill net as seines in that area. When the enforcement agents come by, they get out, and because of the definition of a gill net and a seine, well, they can start moving this gill net and it then becomes a seine.

We have gotten cries about the law not being enforced but actually it cannot be enforced under the way it is set up now.



We need some guidance in the netting across the state and we have come up with possibly three alternatives. There is a whole bunch of alternatives that you could go to, but we have come up with three for your consideration and guidance. We will go ahead and draw something up once we get your feeling on this.

The first one would be to allow legal netting in all areas that are now open for netting. That is, allow any net in open areas, with the exception of that Four Area, where there is an exception to any kind of netting for the pompano net. This will stay as it is now. There will be no further netting in that area. But any other area that is open for commercial fishing would be open to all legal gear.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K., now be a little bit more specific. Area Three.

MR. SCHAFER: O. K. Area Three, Lafourche-Terrebonne, says that there will be no gill netting. With this recommendation that will change to, they could use gill netting in that area.

MR. SMITH: This is specifically the area.



This is the Intracoastal Canal and these are the borders of the two parishes. In this area here, the Intracoastal Canal between Lafourche and Terrebonne, there is no gill net fishing now.

MR. SCHAFER: So this is just opening up the areas that are already open to all legal gear.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: No gill netting on inland waters. You are allowed gill netting 750 feet from the shore or something, is that what the law says?

MR. SMITH: You can gill net, of course, out past the 750-foot point seaward of the lane.

MR. SCHAFER: And you can gill net north of the Intracoastal Canal, but this proposal would make gill netting legal in this area.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: You would have only one area then in the coast of Louisiana that would prohibit gill netting, which would be in Area Four?

MR. SCHAFER: No, there are other areas that also prohibit.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Right, that Grand Isle area.

MR. SMITH: That is a sanctuary.



DR. ST. AMANT: This part and in Lake Pontchartrain it would be prohibited. Area Four would be prohibited from netting, except pompano nets. Maurepas would be prohibited from netting.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And Grand Isle.

MR. SCHAFFER: Yes, Grand Isle.

DR. ST. AMANT: Grand Isle would be prohibited, but the rest of your coast, including Terrebonne and Lafourche, would now be open to gill netting, because we feel like, if you are going to commercially fish, there is no point in restricting a man as to his gear to fish.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That's one option.

DR. ST. AMANT: That's one option, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Doc, let me ask one question. The legislature last year passed an act, making it illegal to gill net in some islands between the Mississippi and the Louisiana border. Is that it right there? Yes, because I had a letter from Washington, D. C., on that thing.

DR. ST. AMANT: This is one option. For your benefit, this could be one extreme, if you want to put it that way. This in effect gives the



commercial fishermen with all the recreational fishermen to pursue their business and their industry in the water. This option is offered basically because at this time we have no data to prove that they have hurt the thing any more than the recreational fishermen have. We don't have any data to show we have had any real dropoff in fish production.

Now this is one option. Now what is the next?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Doc, before we go into the next option, why don't we explain to the Commission what the problem is in this Area Three as it deals with enforcement.

DR. ST. AMANT: In Area Three the legislature passed, at the request of the local people, that they outlaw gill netting in here, and it is on the books. It is outlawed.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: But they allow seines.

DR. ST. AMANT: But they still allow the use of seines and trammel nets. Now a seine is simply a net that you pull, it has got to be in motion. Now, what has happened down here, they



have taken advantage of this technicality in the law. It would have to be rewritten if you want to really enforce it.

The thing now is that those people who own gill nets have simply gone out there and said, "O. K., we are not fishing with gill nets." They take their same nets and they began to move them, and when they move them, they are technically a seine, and the courts won't accept this. So, we have not been able to enforce it, and of course, we are caught in between the two groups, the groups that don't want them and the groups that do want them, and it makes it very difficult for the enforcement people to come up with an answer to it.

Now, we have two alternatives in this area. You can prohibit the use of monofilament or you can prohibit the use of gill nets or moving gill nets or anything else and restrict it even more, or you can open it up.

What we are offering are three options, alternatives, and actually what we are asking you to look at the two extremes, which is going to be pretty much closed on one hand or pretty much open



on the other, and then maybe something in the middle. When we get some feel as to how you might want us to look at this, we will write a bill to that effect and have it ready for the legislature, a bona fide bill, but we don't feel at this time that we have enough data to make the point.

MR. WILLE: Lyle, what is the recommendation of you and Kenneth and Harry on this thing?

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, let's hear the other options. Harry, what is the next option?

MR. SCHAFER: Our next option would be in the problem areas, the ones that have now or any that develop during the legislature, if we get some pressure to close completely commercial fishing, then we feel instead of a closure, a complete outlawing of any kind of commercial fishing, to have some kind of season so that you can separate the commercial people from the sport people and still have both of them able to maintain their recreation and their livelihood.

We would hope that instead of a complete closure of commercial fishing that you would have this seasonal type thing or even a zone type thing,



and that in these problem areas we might even go to a creel census on the sportsmen when it is closed for commercial fishing. A creel limit, I mean.

THE CHAIRMAN: The option, as I understand it, is that you would either have a closed season and an open season or you would have zones or creel limits.

MR. SCHAFER: Creel limits in problem areas.

DR. ST. AMANT: Let me explain that. The argument that is being made by the recreational people, and if it's valid, it's valid for both sides, is that there is too much fishing and they are catching too many fish. Now, if this is true, and we don't have data to prove that it is true, then the shoe can fit on each foot. If you are going to restrict commercial fishermen, you ought to restrict the recreational people. So, you are either going to close an area to everybody, or if you are going to restrict commercial fishermen, then we feel there ought to be a limit or some kind of seasonal restriction on recreational fishermen, so



you break out even, because what we are trying to do here is conserve fish. If there is a conservation problem, which there may, if they really want to protect, then we are going to have to restrict both groups. We don't feel it is ethical or fair or constitutional to allow one group to run the other one out of business. There should be some way to get an equitable division.

Now, what's the third one?

MR. SCHAFER: The third one has more to do with just the Terrebonne-Lafourche area where we have the problem with the gill net being used as a seine. This would be to have a minimum-maximum net size on the seine itself so that the mesh size of the seine is not too big that a gill net could be used. Right now the gill net is three inches stretched and the seine is an inch and three-quarters. So, if you make the seine, both the minimum and maximum, one and three-quarter inches, or even go up to two inches, then they could not use a gill net as a seine, because the mesh size is three inches on that.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's good, good legislation.



MR. LAPEYRE: Did you say, Doc, there is no biological data to support the use of gill nets as opposed to seines?

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Lapeyre, this problem is not unique to Louisiana. Every meeting you go into, from the Northeast all the way around to Brownsville, Texas, there is a discussion going on between the recreational and the commercial interests. There is no area I know of in the whole coast where we have adequate data. We do have in some areas reasonably good data on commercial fishing but nowhere do we have any fix on what the sport fishermen are doing. We don't even know how many sport fishermen we have and we don't know what they are catching. We don't know whether they are catching five times or a thousand times as much pounds as the commercial fishermen or vice versa.

We do know that one of the original counts on saltwater sport fishermen was way too low. They did another one last year in the New York area and they have got ten to twenty million fishermen. At the present time there is a study being done by the National Marine Fisheries, I



think, and maybe the Fish and Wildlife Service, on saltwater sport fishermen in the Gulf area, but it will be another year.

But, to eliminate this problem, there is certain research that has to be done. First, we have got to enumerate the fishermen. It may or may not call for a limited license of some sort so we can get a head count on them, but we have got to find out who they are. We have got to find out where they fish and what they are catching. We have to do the same thing with the commercial fishermen. We are going to have to separate the true commercial fishermen from the so-called sport commercial fishermen, who can go out here and buy a \$5 license and put a net out and catch fish and put them in an icebox and do this, that and the other. If he is out there really for sport, that is one thing. If he is out there for commercial, then he ought to be commercial and he ought to pay for the privilege of being a commercial fisherman.

We have to get the two separated and get a head count on them and then go back with creel censuses or some system of determining what the



catch per unit of effort is, then we will know who is catching the fish. We will find out whether the recreational people are getting these fish or we will find out whether the commercial people are getting them.

Now, we also have a second or another responsibility. We also have to determine, if we can, in certain areas like Calcasieu Lake or maybe off Timbalier Island, whether or not we are really affecting populations. Those of us who have any knowledge of the amount of fish in this ocean and the way they grow and the speed with which these fish grow in these warm waters, we don't really have any fear that either one of them are hurting it, as far as the total production is concerned.

Now, there may be some localized competition. It is obvious if you have got good fishing on one of these beaches and they are catching speckled trout or redfish and somebody comes in there with a big seine or gill net and catches five or six thousand pounds, there may be a depression in their success, but there is no evidence on hand to say that that vacuum won't be filled in a reasonable



length of time.

What we are looking at here is the question of whether it is really conservation of fish stock or whether we are looking at competition between two different interests here.

Now, we have to determine, and it is going to take several years and some money and people; we are not going to do it with the staff we have now, and I would like to make this clear, because we have got them all loaded down, and we are going to have to have some money to do these kinds of field tests and census data, but if we can get the money, I think we can at least determine whether or not we are hurting the fish population.

Now, if it turns out that we are hurting the fish population and we are really depressing it because of overfishing, then any restriction should be across the board for both sides. We should restrict the recreational people and the commercial people, either by seasons or by amount of fish they can catch, quotas or limits or size or something else.

If, on the other hand, we find that we



don't find any effect on the population and that all we have is an interference between the two groups, then we have an administrative problem. We are going to have to either let them fight it out between themselves or we are going to have to decide on some zones or areas where one group will fish and another for the other.

I don't think it would be reasonable at this time to expect the Wild Life and Fisheries to come up with a recommendation that we veto or put either group out of business. I don't think it is right. I don't think we should be asked and I don't think I am going to do it, recommend we put the commercial people out of business, nor is it likely I would recommend we put the recreational people out of business.

The only thing we are hoping to do now is see that some rational approach is taken in the legislature which will let us at least regulate this thing for the next three or four years and at the same time give us an opportunity to do these studies that we need to do.

This is our position and if it is not



satisfactory, I will take the blame for it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Doc, I believe it is wonderful, and I will tell you where to get your money. You are going to need money.

DR. ST. AMANT: I sure am.

THE CHAIRMAN: And this might help out with something else and I am very serious about it. On this boat registration bill, we could very easily do what we do on so many of the other things, designate a certain part of each one of these fees to go to you to make this study, because the people that are going to pay for the registration of the boats, by the large majority, will benefit by this study. If it meets with the approval of these people, the boat registration bill might be amended to set aside a certain amount of the fee, and then I think we would have a large number of people fighting for it.

DR. ST. AMANT: I think the thing that is going to have to happen is, instead of the two groups fighting, that they recognize the problem and that they at least try to go to the legislature or the powers-that-be or whatever and see if they



can't get some funds and personnel dedicated to this work for a certain length of time. I think this is what it is going to amount to.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: What we need is to provide an amended budget request to the appropriations bill.

DR. ST. AMANT: What I mean, we haven't got it in the budget now and I am not going to sit here and guarantee that these people are going to get all these answers under the existing budget program. These people are loaded up. Their time is committed and money is committed and they are committed to good projects they are doing now.

MR. LAPEYRE: Is the research program geared to do that?

DR. ST. AMANT: No, we are trying to fit the minimum stuff in there under 88309 and we need the money to do it. I think Kenneth is trying to squeeze out some funds; Kenneth is looking at Calcasieu Lake; and we are doing everything we can to start these studies, but to be honest with you, to do the kind of job that needs to be done requires money and people.



THE CHAIRMAN: Jerry has something.

MR. JONES: To get back to the question at hand about the alternatives that you present, it seems to me we ought to use some of the lessons we learned with the deer business. You know, years ago the legislature and the police juries were setting all the seasons. There were all kinds of restrictions in the legislature, so finally we came along and the legislature granted us the authority in effect to set all these seasons and bag limits and whatnot.

Why shouldn't we go to the legislature and ask them to authorize the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to set the business about all these restrictions about gill netting and whatnot, just like you did in the last session in Calcasieu Lake? The bill authored by Representative LaBleu authorized this Commission in effect to set the rules under which you are going to operate. If we do that, then we would get away from all this special interest stuff that we face very time we go to the legislature.

You and I know, when any bill we present



up there goes in, such and such a parish is going to be excluded, this one is going to be excluded. I don't blame the legislators, but it seems to me that you all have the knowledge about how it ought to be done. Why don't we just go in there with a blanket proposal like we did in Calcasieu Lake, authorize the Commission to set the rules?

That puts the monkey on our back, but that's where it ought to be. We are in the business. You all are supposed to know the answers.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That would be the fourth option, eh? (Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Doc, I believe with all my heart and soul that the future economy of this state is --

MR. JONES: And you look now at the respect the people have for the deer seasons as set in this state. You don't hear all this complaint that we used to hear. And the other important thing is that it is a very fluid thing. If they get into a problem and they need to change a rule or regulation, we meet every month. The legislature meets once every year.



DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that this would probably work, but there is one problem you may run into where the Commission sets the regulations, there has been a problem sometimes accepting these, anyway.

MR. JONES: Well, the problem has always been that when the legislature has not really in detail authorized us to do us. Now I know of instances where we have been specifically authorized to do it, there is not any problem about it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to ask Jerry a question. Jerry, if we are authorized to set the seasons, can we be authorized to set the penalties?

MR. JONES: The penalties are provided by the legislature for the violation of a Wild Life and Fisheries regulation, maximum penalties. Seriously, the rules under which you operate are just another management tool that you use, as a practical matter.

DR. ST. AMANT: I think, Jerry, if we can get some kind of mutual agreement, similar to the way it appears to have happened in Calcasieu Lake, that you may get a temporary procedure going in



there for a year or two until such time as we can get the data.

MR. WILLE: We have got flexibility, Dr. St. Amant.

MR. JONES: I think we are going to get more out of the legislature doing that than we are on any other proposal, because any one of those alternatives that is going to be submitted, you are going to see an amendment to it, excluding Terrebonne, Calcasieu Lake, or a whole bunch of them. That is the way it is going to come out of the legislature.

MR. DUPUY: In every one of these special bills that are presented by special interests, we are going to be asked to comment, take a stand one way or the other, and I think that if we ask the legislature to allow the Commission and its professional biologists to make the recommendations with monies to do the studies, that that would be the way to do it.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I don't think we would have any problem getting that bill through if we could get the commercial interests and the sport



fishermen to make that recommendation to the legislature.

MR. JONES: One other advantage of that is it takes the monkey off the legislator's back because what he is saying is, he can tell his constituents, we have put it on the back of the people who are supposed to know the answer and don't come to me and let me put a bill in. They like to get the monkey off their backs.

THE CHAIRMAN: Burt never did dodge that when he was in the legislature.

MR. DUPUY: I would like to suggest one thing, that we transcribe Dr. St. Amant's comments and make that the source, the base of an article which would appear in The Conservationist.

THE CHAIRMAN: A very good suggestion, and unless I have some objection --

MR. WILLE: No, I would like for Mr. Jones to put that in the form of a motion and you all put that in the form of another option on that thing, and then we will go from there to a recommendation for law.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is that all right, Doc?



Four options.

MR. JONES: All the options are that they authorize this Commission to set the rules for net sizes and whatnot in these areas after public meeting.

MR. SCHAFER: Is that the desire of the Commission?

MR. JONES: I move that that would be the alternative that we propose.

MR. SCHAFER: Number Four, that we are to prepare legislation to that effect?

MR. JONES: Number Four.

THE CHAIRMAN: To authorize the Commission to set legal size limits and so forth and so on.

MR. JONES: Someone wanted to say something.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir. What is your name?

MR. C. M. BERTHELOT: If I am in order and if there is time and all those people finish what they have got to say, I have got a couple of steps beyond. We are headed in the same direction.



THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, sir. We are very much interested in what you are saying, and if you will go to the mike, we will get it on the record, and I want you to state what is your name and who you represent and so forth, and make it brief.

MR. BERTHELOT: That's hard to do. I am C. M. Berthelot and I am president of a recently formed organization called Louisiana Sport Fishermen, Incorporated.

I was at the special committee hearing Wednesday three weeks ago, Mr. Angelle, and I talked to several of the people here. I hadn't come across Dr. St. Amant yet. I wish I had, because I can already tell him we have made moves, we have already gotten under way to do just what he is saying.

I would like to take just a minute and I will be as quick as possible, but I would like you to know who I am and our thinking so far. I am dean of students at Glen Oaks High School on sabbatical leave and have taught biology at that high school for some fourteen years. I have a Master's degree. I am not a research biologist. I am



primarily a citizen of Louisiana. I do fish sports-wise. I have a lot of good friends that are commercial fishermen.

I can assure you that this gap exists mainly in the minds of most people and is not really a gap, because we are after the same thing. We want continued successful fishing on the coast of Louisiana. We have many, many examples in history. In fact, a first cousin of our speckled trout, the grey trout in Chesapeake Bay, there is quite a history there that we certainly should learn from.

Like I say, I did a number on the passenger pigeon before that committee and I think that goes without saying, we know what the passenger pigeon did now.

We are on record as sport fishermen to work with and through and support Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in anything that they can do. First of all, let's stop the illegal taking of these fish. That is what is happening right now. Then let's get the laws changed and let's make us a season. I have got correspondence



from other states that have similar problems and I would be tickled to death to pass on any information we have.

But I am here primarily to tell you this, that our organization is with you 100 percent if you are headed in the direction which I know you are of preserving the fishing industry, particularly on our Gulf Coast as pertains specifically to speckled trout and redfish.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. JONES: Let me ask you a question while you are there.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to get his name. I missed it. What was your name, sir?

MR. BERTHELOT: I will give you my card. I will have to spell it three times. Right, Mr. Angelle?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: He asked what your name was; it's an old French name!

THE CHAIRMAN: May I make one other statement. If you are a schoolteacher, the Good Lord has a special place upstairs for you. I know that for certain.



MR. BERTHELOT: Thank you, sir. Let me say this to you. I am very proud to be a school teacher.

MR. JONES: What do you feel that the average fisherman would feel about a proposal whereby the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission would be the agency instead of the legislature to determine the rules and what-not of fishing. For example, such as was done with deer hunting and all the hunting now, where it is a lot more flexible. How do you feel?

MR. BERTHELOT: Well, let me go back and read you about our third purpose in our organization. Our third, and we have just a few of them, and two pertain to the Wild Life and Fisheries. Number Threesays, "To work closely with the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission in developing a program that will insure continued fish populations for future years; to work toward the allocation of funds for a biological study of speckled trout and redfish. The purpose of such a study will be to change, if necessary, the fishing laws in light of the findings."



Mr. Ralph Parker and Mr. Steve Ward, old No. 41 back with the Paul Dietzel champions, are co-chairmen of that committee. They have already met with some people in Louisiana. Steve was here but he had a business meeting and had to leave.

We have got things under way already in our own direction. We will work with you 100 percent and we also want to go on record, jeepers creepers, we are not against the commercial fishermen. We are for preserving speckled trout and redfish principally. How many times do we have to fail as human beings in our history, with the American bison, with the passenger pigeon, right up to whooping crane -- holy mackerel, let's get together on this thing and save these trout.

One more point. Mr. Campbell knows this gentleman, Mr. P. C. Robert who is about as close, I guess, as I can get to any man. My father died in '57 and Mr. Pappy Robert is my man. I work for him and he is down there at Leeville on his houseboat and he has been there for, what, eight or ten years. It might not be official but I will tell you what he has got. He has got a day by day



record of the last four or five years of all of his fishing and probably, what, maybe 100 or 150 people. My in-laws come from Minnesota. We have got friends from Kentucky that come down over the Thanksgiving holidays and stay with us. Pappy has got a daily record of trout and redfish catches, day after day after day.

I can assure you of one thing. There is no doubt of this, that in the past three years the catching that we have done has been in decline. Now I have to assume this, after reading the law. When I read the law that said no gill netting in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parish, I assumed that that was because the people drafting the laws knew that that is the natural spawning habitat of those fish, which I will assure you it is. They come up Bayou Lafourche in late September and early October just by the tens of thousands. It made me sick to hear at that fishnet subcommittee hearing that that was a political consideration rather than one based on biological considerations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Wille has a question.



MR. WILLE: No, all I wanted to say is, I am not familiar with what you were talking about as far as the political decision, but you will find 99.9 of the time that this Commission is going to go along with the biologists' recommendations.

MR. BERTHELOT: I am saying -- now, don't misunderstand me -- the laws for Lafourche and Terrebonne are not a result of this Commission, this Commission didn't draft those laws; I well know that. But I say I was disappointed because I had evidently made a faulty assumption. I thought that the reason you couldn't gill net in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes was because that is the natural spawning habitat of the speckled trout.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lapeyre.

MR. LAPEYRE: Sir, does your group have a position on gill netting?

MR. BERTHELOT: Yes. Right now it is under way. Our attorney is Randy Harger and he last night -- we went into the night; we broke up at 10:20 last night, and Ralph Parker, who is the son of a commercial fisherman and was a commercial fisherman himself until 1948 and is very, very



knowledgeable -- he is now a supervisor at Ethyl Corporation -- is our man on this project. He is working on a very specific definition and according to what Ralph tells us, his idea is, of course, to give the commercial fisherman what he needs to earn his living. Let me say that again. We are not against the commercial fishermen, absolutely not.

I will tell you what we are against. We are against the flagrant violation of the law as it now exists in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. There is no question about that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. May I have your card?

MR. BERTHELOT: Yes, sir. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, we have another person, since we are going to go further into this. Mr. George Snow I believe is in the audience. Where is Mr. Snow?

FROM THE FLOOR: No, sir. We will save our comments for your meeting next Friday.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Thank you,



sir. May the Good Lord bless you. I still have thirty minutes. Next, Mr. Angelle.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: There may be a couple of other items. Chief, do you want to discuss with the Board the possibility dealing with the space between the 2,000 webbing, as you appreciate it, as brought out in the legislative gill net committee, what the problem is, what some of the recommendations could be?

MR. MICHAEL HOGAN: We now have a law on the books saying that the maximum limit for gill netting is 2,000 feet but there is nothing in the law to keep a fisherman from spacing out two or more gill nets of 2,000 feet each, spacing them only an inch apart or six inches apart, which could be a continuous line or making a circle.

It may be well for some legislation to denote that not less than X number of feet or X number of yards in any direction be left open between the gill nets. This is one of the complaints that we have gotten from some of the sport fishermen, that they are violating the true intent of the act, the maximum 2,000 feet, by stringing



out two or more 2,000 foot nets end to end, so to speak.

THE CHAIRMAN: I was being ugly. I was talking. Did you give us a distance of that space between gill nets?

MR. HOGAN: Well, that is something that would have to be set. As it is now, there is no provision in the law for it. You could put a gill net within an inch of the other one, end to end.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. WILLE: What are we recommending on this?

MR. HOGAN: Well, in order for the fish to have passage, I would say probably not less than maybe a hundred yards in any direction, opening.

MR. WILLE: And we need to incorporate that?

MR. HOGAN: A hundred yards between two 2,000 feet of gill net is not a lot of space.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have allowed our sport fishermen a little time. Do we have a commercial fisherman that would like to have a little something to say? We would be glad to hear you.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Trahan is over there talking. He is using his hands; I don't know whether he can talk in the mike.

MR. JONES: Are you all looking for somebody to talk? I can talk. I have something I want to bring up.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., Jerry, if you have.

MR. JONES: I have two things I want to bring up.

MR. HULIN TRAHAN: I am Hulin Trahan, Little Caillou and so forth, gill net fisherman. I bring sports fishing; when I bring them out fishing, I charter the boat, so I am a commercial fisherman and a commercial sportsman hauler, or whatever you want to call it.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: He is a money-maker!

MR. TRAHAN: Trying to make. But when I was making my hands to like that, in other words I can come over here and put my gill net and 50 yards from mine or 50 feet, somebody puts one, who is going to be charged for violating the law?

THE CHAIRMAN: Both of you. Make him move, or you move.



MR. TRAHAN: Randolph would have done better, but that is all I have got to say. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Jerry.

MR. JONES: I wasn't at the last meeting and maybe I missed something and maybe you talked about it earlier. I would like to know what the status is of our request to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the flyway, up to date, what we have gotten from them, who is moving, who is not moving.

MR. YANCEY: O. K. At this point we don't have any official word from the Fish and Wildlife Service as to the Commission's request for realignment of Louisiana with the Central rather than the Mississippi Flyway. We do have some indication that we are going to get something from them within the next couple of weeks probably. We got one phone call along that line.

Now, we have had meetings. They have been down from Washington twice in the past two months and have met with us to present some of the information they felt was pertinent to the subject.



These were all-day meetings and they are working on the thing. It appears at this point that we are going to hear something within a very few days.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. What next?

MR. JONES: One moment. What do we hear about our request to the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service about alligators?

MR. YANCEY: Well, we don't have anything definite on that, either. We don't know why it is necessary that they take this much time to act on the petition that the Governor sent in, to reclassify the alligator in Louisiana from endangered to completely off the list in Southwest Louisiana and in the threatened category in Southeast and leave it on the endangered list for North Louisiana.

They have taken, we think, so much time on this that it is going to make it real difficult to work out any kind of season in Louisiana for this year, which would have to be set in the very near future if we were going to have a season during September, which would be the latest month that you could have this.

We hear rumors to the effect that serious



consideration is being given by the Interior Department to taking it off the endangered list and putting it on the threatened list throughout its range, which would then mean that any season we would set would have to be set in accordance with any federal regulations that they would feel would be necessary from Washington or Atlanta or whoever would administer the thing.

We think that is going to present a very difficult situation to administer because there are a lot of little detailed rules and regulations that have to go along with administering one of these seasons and to have each one of these approved in Washington is really going to pose some real problems for us, considering the fact that usually you can't even get an answer to a letter up there usually in less than about two or three months on this subject.

MR. WILLE: One question on this. One year, as Burt recalls, the first time they put this thing on the endangered species, every time we had a call or a complaint we were shovelling it over to the federal people, and I think the Director got



pretty softhearted on the deal and kind of felt sorry for those federal people because they didn't know how to handle an alligator. Now our agents are removing them at the direction of the federal people and moving them into different places.

I personally feel that we should take a hard line on this. It is an endangered species and it is up to the federal people to move it and when they get another alligator in the Lake Charles swimming pool down there, I think that we ought to call them and make them moved the damned thing. I think we should refuse to have anything to do with 'gators, and I think if we do this and can hold to it and succumb to the pressure that we are going to get -- because we are going to get a lot of pressure -- I think they would be ready to talk about the alligator coming off their endangered species list.

MR. YANCEY: Well, Don, so far they just refuse to handle any of these alligators. They have assumed the jurisdiction but they haven't assumed the responsibility of handling them.

MR. WILLE: I think we need to write a



letter and take a firm stand from the Commission and by proclamation say we are not going to have anything more to do with the removal of alligators and if something happens, it is not going to be on our back.

MR. YANCEY: Handling these nuisance alligators is a very costly and time-consuming matter.

MR. WILLE: You bet it is, and they are going to get tired of it in about six months.

MR. YANCEY: In this department we were handling 700 to 1,000 of these things and after the endangered species bill became law, became an act, we had our personnel refer the complaint calls to the Interior Department people here in Louisiana, but they refused to handle any of these animals. We then passed the word to our people to handle only those animals that pose a threat to life or property, life, limb or property, and that is basically what we are doing now.

MR. WILLE: O. K., Dick. Let's adjourn and just do a little discussing in the corner here like the Director is doing over there. Suppose we



send them a telegram, the Department of Interior, requesting an immediate decision or answer on our request, and then if we don't get it so we can get it for our next meeting, then at the next meeting put out a proclamation by the Commission that, since we do not have the jurisdiction over the alligator, it is not our responsibility, that we are therefore going to have to let the federal government handle it altogether, and that means movement of them or anything else.

MR. YANCEY: We sent letters along this line to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service and they still refuse.

MR. WILLE: But we have never said we are not going to do it, though. We have never really refused them. They have got in a bind and we have gone and helped them out in the past.

MR. YANCEY: They haven't handled any of these animals.

MR. WILLE: I know, and they are not going to, either. They don't want to get bit.

MR. YANCEY: There is one other thing of interest here. You know, under this Public Law



93,205, the Endangered Species Act, the states and the federal government are supposed to work out cooperative programs for managing endangered species and this was going to require legislation on the part of our legislature to give this Commission the authority to manage endangered species and it was going to require certification by the Attorney General's office, that the law that our legislature passed would conform with the federal law.

Well, all of this was done and we sent all of this to Washington and talked in terms of a cooperative agreement with them on this, and all we got back was a letter from them that apparently makes it appear that it is going to be impossible to work up --

MR. WILLE: Suppose we send them a bill for five grand every time we move a 'gator?

MR. YANCEY: It looks like the SALT agreement between this country and Russia is going to be easier to get than a cooperative endangered species agreement with the Interior Department.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: We are just handling them when it is not in conflict with our everyday



business.

MR. WILLE: I know, Burt, but I think if we took a real hard line and they got enough complaints, I really believe that it would soften their attitude, don't you? I mean if we ask them for a decision, demand a decision, and we take a real hard line. We have never really done that as a Commission. You know that. We have tried to cooperate fully with the federal government and the only thing we get back from them is a lot of -- I am not going to say it because it will be blanked out.

MR. JONES: Could we get a telegram off to them today or Monday, asking for a decision on the Governor's request?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Yes, I think we can fire off a telegram right away, because we got a letter the other day, saying that we had not complied with the --

MR. YANCEY: That was on the cooperative agreement. The application to take the animal off the list was submitted last fall, if you all will recall, and they ran this in the Federal Register



and they left the record open until about the middle of October, '74, for comments, and they got the comments and then they were going to make the decision. Now we are in April of '75, some six or seven months later, and the decision still hasn't been made, and at this point we don't know when they are going to make it.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is a letter already sent up by me. I should have sent you a copy. Saying that when they showed our Governor the decency to answer his petition, then we would be very happy to work with them, but --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: But until such time as that, we cannot --

THE CHAIRMAN: That's exactly right, but that until such time as you do answer this letter we will not work with you or discuss this.

MR. JONES: Burt, you are going to get the telegram out?

THE CHAIRMAN: You will get the telegram out? Fine. That language is already there and it is just exactly what we were saying.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Send me a copy of that



and I can use some of that language.

MR. BERTHELOT: Mr. Chairman, I must say this and be on record. You will see some bumper stickers, if you haven't already seen them, that say "Stop Gill Netting". Please know that that means stop illegal gill netting. You can say only so much on a bumper sticker and we deliberated about this. Our bumper stickers that say "Stop Gill Netting", they say exactly, "Save Speckled Trout. Stop Gill Netting. Louisiana Sport Fishermen, Inc." You will see them. Remember, that means stop illegal gill netting.

MR. JONES: There's the commercial fisherman.

MR. BERTHELOT: Well, they are the ones drawing the line and not us.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I know there will be a bill introduced in the legislature to prohibit gill netting coastwise. Are you all going to support this type of bill?

MR. BERTHELOT: As of right now, we have plans to come up with something more comprehensive and better than that. A direct answer, as I told



you, and I can only speak in general terms, we want everybody to make a living and be happy and keep these fish going. I think I can say no, we won't go that route.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. That is it.

. . . Thereupon, at 2:15 o'clock  
p.m., Friday, April 18, 1975,  
the special meeting of the Board  
of Louisiana Wild Life and  
Fisheries Commission was adjourned. . .

